



The Afterglow

The Newsletter of the Nature Camp Foundation

Number 75

April 2009

Hikes and Other News from Camp

The October family hikes organized by Paul Cabe and Leigh Anne Beavers have been very popular and successful. Last year's hike had 60 people attending and raised over \$800. We plan to have another hike this year. Further plans will be posted at the NCF web site.

Nature Camp is a partner in the Central Blue Ridge Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program. The program will be running a basic training course at the end of May, and will be using camp grounds for part of the program. Nature Camp, Inc. is interested in making the grounds available to other groups during the spring and fall.

Camp ended the 2008 season with a positive balance for operations and will keep tuition at the same level for this year. Director Flip Coulling is continuing to improve the garden space, and would like to can tomatoes at fall service weekend to use the following summer if the tomatoes can be protected from the deer. He is continuing to look for local food sources; all beef and some cheese used at camp are now local. He is looking for eggs, honey, maple syrup, and fresh produce. Local sourcing is a challenge because camp is a large consumer.

Plans for Capital Improvements and Service Work

The Service Committee has several projects for this year. The caretaker's house needs new windows, and sheet rock installed in the ceiling. The L.S. Building is being re-shingled over several work sessions. Both bunkhouses will need new shingles in a few years, and the service workers replace the fascia boards almost every session, thanks to the insatiable appetites of camp's carpenter bees.

Camp's current pickup truck is over ten years old and it's passing inspection in June is doubtful. Nature Camp, Inc. has determined that the cost of a new truck will be \$18,000-20,000 and has requested that NCF provide matching funds should it be determined that replacing the truck is a more cost-effective long-term solution than repairing the truck. In addition, the well continues to be a problem with the high iron content. Caretaker Charlie Truxell will be collecting bids for a new well, which will require approval by the forest service and the health department. NCF has budgeted a provisional amount of matching funds, should this prove necessary.

Calendar of Events for 2009

Spring Service Weekend	May 15-17
Annual Meeting of Members	May 16, after dinner
Master Naturalist Class	May 29-31
Adult Session	August 21-25
Fall Service Weekend	September 18-20
Fall hike	October TBA

Please see the
NCF
2008 Annual Report
which follows the
Afterglow
in this publication.

Summer Sessions Filling Up

At the time the *Afterglow* goes to print, First Session is almost full with about 10 spaces left for both boys and girls. Second, Third and Fourth sessions are full for girls with waiting lists. Second is also full for boys with a waiting list. There are still a few spaces left for boys in Third and Fourth sessions. Applications are available on the website, which will also note availability of spaces throughout the spring.

-- Flip Coulling, Camp Director

Please send any questions to Flip at director@naturecamp.net

Living Naturally: Adult Session in August

Adult Session this year will be August 21-25, a week after the end of 4th session. The theme will be "Living Naturally", exploring the ways that we can incorporate nature into our daily lives. We'll be covering topics like:

- ◆ Gardening with native plants, natural pest controls, and composting
- ◆ Foraging for plant foods, including mushrooms
- ◆ Beekeeping, and freshwater aquaria
- ◆ Craft classes using natural materials
- ◆ Field trip to areas of natural and controlled burns

A virtual version of the brochure with application form is available at the NCF web site.

Two Afterglows for 2009

For the past few years, we produced and sent out three or four editions of *The Afterglow* annually to keep everyone informed of the major changes that were taking place at Nature Camp and in the Foundation. This year we have decided to slim down production to only two issues—this one in the spring, and another in September. The decision was made in part because of the paucity of real news now that Nature Camp is firmly grounded, and we do not anticipate enough to justify a third issue, especially with the cost of sending copies out to the current subscriber list of some 2000 addressees. At the moment, it just makes better sense to manage our administrative funds that way. Several of the articles included in this issue describe activities that will occur over the summer, so you might find it useful to keep this issue handy for reference.

News Notes

[Editorial note: We will no longer be using dues forms to collect personal news. We've been told that many people enjoy reading this part of the *Afterglow*, so please do continue to send your news to the editor or via the web site.

Steve Fisher, back in Virginia, reports that he is playing in both the Mary Washington orchestra and the Manassas Symphony. He'll be giving papers at conferences on Haydn, on whom he did his thesis work.

Proposed 2009 NCF Budget

Proposed Budget for 2009

Income	
Contributions	\$40,000
Dividends and interest	10,000
Fall hike	<u>500</u>
Total	50,500
Expenses	
New Truck (matching funds)	10,000
Loan Repayment	10,000
Printing and Mailing	8,500
Service Work	5,000
New Well (matching funds)	5,000
Scholarships	2,000
License and Accounting Fees	2,000
Administrative Expenses	<u>500</u>
Total	43,000
Net	\$7,500

Notes: Service Work includes materials and supplies, plus meals. For explanation of the loan repayment, please see cover letter to the Annual Report included in this mailing. Printing and mailing covers two issues of the Afterglow and separate mailings for fund-raising.

Shop Ukrops, Help Camp

If you have shopped at your local Ukrops grocery store chain, you may have already helped Nature Camp. Ukrops has multiple stores in Richmond, Fredericksburg, Roanoke, and Williamsburg. This year, the Nature Camp Foundation has been approved (again) as a participating nonprofit organization in Ukrops's Golden Gift program.

Here's how it works: If you used your Ukrops's Valued Customer card between March 2nd and March 28th, 2009, your purchases were totaled (as "points") on your card account and will be mailed to your home in the form of a "Golden Gift certificate" in May. Those Golden Gift Certificates are collected, tallied and submitted to Ukrops, and based on the total certificates, a cash donation is made to that eligible nonprofit organization (or in this case, the Nature Camp Foundation!!).

So what does that mean for you? There are a couple of things to consider:

- 1) Only purchases made with the "Valued Customer cards" at Ukrops stores between March 2nd and March 28th, 2009 are eligible this year. But if you don't have a card, sign up; there's always next year!
- 2) Since the Golden Gift certificates will be mailed to your home address, you may want to check that Ukrops has your current postal address. You can request to update your mailing address at the customer service desk in your local Ukrops store. When you know Ukrops has your updated mailing address, keep your eyes peeled for your Golden Gift certificate...it will arrive in May.
- 3) Finally, when you receive it, please mail it back to me and I will total and submit all the certificates for the Nature Camp Foundation. I would ask that you mail your certificates to me no later than Saturday

June 6th at: Latham Schweitzer Coates, 6024 Haverhill Court, Springfield, VA 22152

This is our second year participating in this program and we hope to continue in the future. Please spread the word to your family and friends. Collect receipts at your office or from your friends; more certificates mean more money for Nature Camp!! Thanks for your help and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. -- Latham Schweitzer Coates, NCF Development Chair

Elections Past and Future

Last year the Foundation revised its by-laws to provide staggered terms for officers and committee chairs, with a third of them to be elected or appointed each year for three-year terms. This structure preserves institutional memory and avoids the risk of block departures from the board.

In 2008 we held an election for Vice-President, for which Campbell Tuskey Hutton (Cammie) was successfully re-elected. At the same time, Nell Jefferson Fredericksen was reappointed as Communications Chair, and Amy Wingfield Clark as Finance Chair.

This year the elected positions of Secretary and Treasurer become open, as will the appointed positions of Development Chair and Volunteer Coordinator. A nominating committee will be created in June, with nominations accepted by mail, phone, or email anytime through August. In September the committee will produce a proposed slate of nominees to be approved by the board of directors and the ballots will be mailed in October to all qualified voters. Those who contributed money or made in-kind contributions during 2008 are eligible to vote and will receive ballots with short candidate biographies.

As Vice-President, Cammie Hutton chairs the nominating committee and is coordinating the election. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, or are willing to consider serving in one of the open positions, please contact the . Given the planned schedule of *Afterglow* mailings, this is the ONLY call for nominations that will be published. Watch the Foundation website (<http://www.naturecampfoundation.org>) for announcements about elections throughout the summer.



Nature Camp Foundation Board of Directors

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 Peggy Layne, Secretary
 Chuck Story, Treasurer
 Anna Lowry, At-Large Delegate
 Nell J. Fredericksen, Communications
 Latham Schweitzer Coates, Development
 Jim Brooks, Facilities
 Amy Wingfield Clark, Finance
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Nature Camp, Inc. Board of Directors

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