



The Afterglow

The Newsletter of the Nature Camp Foundation

Number 77

May 2010

Let's Get Together!!

The Nature Camp Foundation is holding its semi-decadal reunion during Labor Day weekend, the 3rd-5th of September, 2010. The reunion is a chance for the young and the young at heart to gather together and share stories, relive old memories, and re-ignite old friendships. Anyone who was a former camper, counselor, or Nature Camp affiliate is invited to attend. At the reunion, generations of nature campers will play games, go on hikes, share old photos and memories and have a great time getting reacquainted with a place that we have all called home at one time or another.

Already the excitement for the reunion has grown since we announced it on the NCF web site and Facebook in January. We can only accommodate a limited number of people, so the reunion committee has decided to level the playing field for those of us who are not connected to social networking web sites. Included in this issue of *The Afterglow* is a registration form for the reunion (**See the last page of this document**). If you are interested, we ask that you postmark the registration form **no earlier than** June 1st, 2010. Registration forms will not be accepted before this date and acceptance is on a first-come/first-serve basis. After receiving your registration, we will contact you by phone or email to confirm and send you an itinerary for the weekend.

Prepayment for the weekend is not recommended because refunds are somewhat of a hassle. Payment can be made at the reunion in September. If you are certain that you will be able to attend you may send a check along with the registration form. *Please make checks payable to the Nature Camp Foundation.*

We will need numerous volunteers for the weekend, so please indicate on the registration form if you would like to help out in any way, especially if you want to lead hikes or nature outings of any sort. Be sure to include the gender of each person so that we can determine how the bunkhouses will fill up.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

-- Chris Chamberlin, Reunion Chairperson

Elections—Past and Future

Voting in the 2009 election for Treasurer and Secretary ended in mid-December. Thanks to Nancy Lowry's careful counting, the results showed that you re-elected Chuck Story as Treasurer and elected Sarah VanAuken Hulcher as Secretary. Sarah was installed at our January Board meeting. At the same time, Latham Schweitzer Coates was reappointed as Development Chair, and Mike Meads as Volunteer Coordinator. Many thanks to Reid Downer and Cathie Maguire Hartley for serving on the Nominating Committee and to Peggy Layne for her previous years as a prompt and efficient Secretary.

This year the positions of President and At-large Board Member are up for election and the position of Facilities Chair is up for reappointment. A nominating committee will be created in June, and nominations will be accepted by mail, phone, or email anytime through August. In September and October the committee will develop the proposed slate of nominees to be approved by the board of directors and the ballots will be mailed by November to all qualified voters. Those who contributed money or in-kind contributions during 2009 or 2010 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 this year. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, or are willing to consider serving in one of the open positions, please contact Cammie (see contact information below). Given the planned schedule of Afterglow mailings, this is the **ONLY** call for nominations that will be published. Watch the Foundation web site for announcements about elections throughout the summer.

Campbell Hutton,
campbellhutton@gmail.com



Shapes and Patterns in Nature: Adult Session To Be In June

June 11-15 (Friday afternoon through Tuesday morning) will mark the 21st Adult Session at Nature Camp. We'll be learning from Tom Dierauf about patterns in the forest, and from Gerald Pottern about the controls on stream shapes and river flow. Betsy Banglely will show us how to make leaf prints, and Nell Fredericksen will be repeating her popular class on silver casting. We'll have a half-day field trip, stargazing with Terry Richardson and bird walks with Peter Mehring. Michaux Lowry Hood and Molly Pickral will arrange a string band class again and there'll be many other classes and events. An announcement and registration form are posted at the web site.

For questions, contact Connie Sancetta, csancetta@yahoo.com.

Notes from Nature Camp, Inc.

With summer 2009 seeing near-record enrollment and the upcoming summer sessions filling fast, it is apparent that thanks are due to many people who are helping Nature Camp to thrive. At our annual November meeting, Nature Camp, Inc. (NCI) board members commented on the many people and groups contributing in different ways to Nature Camp's success.

While the campers and families who support their young people are at the heart of the rewarding summer experience, literally dozens of garden clubs, environmental groups, and individuals make it possible for attendance to grow through their contributions to camper scholarships. Whether supporting campers directly or making a gift earmarked for scholarships, these generous gifts help to offset the need for assistance during this economic downturn. The board voted to keep tuition at the same level (\$700) for at least another year, making the Nature Camp experience a relative bargain. We welcome and appreciate any interest in providing camper scholarships and urge you to contact Director Flip Coulling with questions or contributions.

Thanks, too, to those who volunteer at Earth Day fairs and who pass out brochures and applications at local schools or to friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth advertising by those who know of Camp firsthand has proven far more effective than print advertising at generating interest in Nature Camp.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Amy Beaird and Charlie Truxell as well. Amy has worked at Nature Camp for 25 summers and was recognized last summer for her tireless efforts in keeping all the campers safe and healthy. And while caretaker Charlie is a familiar face to Nature Camp's summer population, he works throughout the year on maintenance and prevention and is truly one of Camp's finest assets.

As we look to the future of Nature Camp, we will continue to rely on the extended Nature Camp family for assistance. If, for example, you have medical experience at the EMT level or higher and would be willing to be placed on a list of "back-up" care providers who might be called upon to give Amy Beaird an occasional reprieve for a day, please let Flip Coulling know. Future plans for Camp's facilities include examining Camp's museum and potentially reshaping it into a more current and usable space; if you have expertise or interest in this area and would be interested in serving on a task force to make recommendations, please also contact Flip.

We know that it is the growing community of Nature Camp's friends and alumni that has strengthened Camp for many years and that will ensure its longevity for future generations.

Many thanks to you all. -- Anne Rottenborn Balto, NCI President

Proposed NCF Budget, 2010

Note: This budget sets general targets for the Nature Camp Foundation (NCF), a separate entity from Nature Camp Inc. (NCI).

Income

Donations and Fund-raising Events	50,000
Investments	<u>5,000</u>
Total	55,000

Expenses

Publications and Mailings	8,000
Service Committee	5,000
Special Projects	5,000
Camper Scholarships	2,000
Office Supplies	500
Professional Fees	500
Miscellaneous	<u>500</u>
Total	21,500

Net Income

33,500

Nature Camp Trivia Question #2: When were Sunday Hikes initiated?

The Nature Camp History Project

As I gear up to begin working on the Nature Camp History Project in earnest, I have been thinking about the most basic needs we have in terms of collection of documents. Flip and I spent a few hours at camp the other day looking over what we already have, and we noticed that we are missing certain issues of the *Woodland Echoes*. The list of issues we are missing follows this plea; if you have saved your copies and can supply us with either the original or a copy of it, we'd be most grateful! If you notice that you have one of the issues that we need, please email me at: hoffmankatie@rocketmail.com and let me know. If you don't use email, please call me at 423-329-4742. Once you contact me, I will tell you where to send the documents.

At this point, we aren't accepting any other types of documents — the guidelines for submitting those will come later — so please hold on to other items. We'll let you know when we're set up and ready to accept other types of recordings, photos, films, and other paper items.

If you're attending the reunion, you'll get a firsthand view of what we're putting together. The photocopier will be available during the reunion and the fall service weekend, for those who may want copies.

Hope to see you there!

- Katie Hoffman, Director, Nature Camp History Project

We need the following issues of the *Woodland Echoes*:

1943-1952: all sessions and years

1953: first and second	1959: first, third, and fourth	1966: first and fourth
1954: all sessions	1960: third and fourth	1969: first and third
1955: all sessions	1962: third session	1970: second, third, fourth
1956: first, second, and third	1963: all sessions	1971: all sessions
1957: first	1964: third and fourth	1972: first and second sessions
1958: third session	1965: all sessions	

From this point on we have an almost complete collection of issues, however, we are still missing these following years from the 1990's

1992: second session 1998: all sessions

Winner of the Bike Raffle Announced!!!!

Thanks to all of you that supported Nature Camp this year, through the Annual Fund or campaign pledges. Your contributions are particularly important during these challenging economic times. We conducted the bike lottery and the winner is Lori Ratliff! Congratulations to Lori, and again, a special thanks to Whit Brooks for his kind donation.

Calendar of Events 2010

Spring Service Weekend	May 14-16
Adult Session	June 11-15
Reunion	September 3-5
Annual Meeting	September 4, 7:00 p.m.
Fall Service Weekend	September 17-19
Fall Hike	October 16, 10:00 a.m.

Service Work Focuses on Shingles

Although the major renovations of the electrical, water, and sewage systems at camp have been completed, there will always be maintenance projects on 50 year old buildings. Many of you will remember Bob and Margie Goodman. They were the caretakers at Nature Camp during the late 1980s and early 1990s. One of Bob's first projects was to reshingle many of the buildings in camp. That was 20 years ago, and the NCF Service Committee has begun to remove and replace those old shingles. In September 2006, NCF replaced the shingles on the Boys' T-house. This May, 2010, we will finish reshingling the Lillian Shilling Building. This building has required four service weekends of work. Soon it will be time to reroof the Girls' Bunkhouse, the Staffhouse, the Education Building, and the Boys' Bunkhouse. In addition, there are always screens to repair and fascia boards and siding to be replaced.

During service weekend this past fall the work on the Lillian Schilling roof entailed dealing with rain, rotting sheathing that needed to be replaced (which gave us a "skylight" right at the chimney for a while). We replaced some rotten benches; added a new section to the compost pile so it has 8 bins now instead of the original 4 bins; collected trash along 608 and up the New Road; cleared the culverts; cleaned up the vegetable garden beds; smeared some sheetrock mud in the Staffhouse; removed much of the ivy from the Chapel and a bunch of invasive weeds in and around Camp; used pipe clamps to pull the Library bench back up to the wall; and cleared a trail through the woods for the well truck that will come this winter to drill a new well. Katie and Nell were chief cooks and bottle washers with help from many others. The meals were, as usual, just fantastic—they even included 5 lbs of home grown shitake mushrooms from Ellis. We played music and danced a circle mixer and several other dances in the LS on Saturday night.

-- Jim Brooks, Service Committee Chair

Nature Camp Scholarship Fund

Each year, scholarship and tuition reduction grants are made to campers through the generosity of garden clubs, individuals and the Nature Camp Foundation. Requests for financial assistance to attend camp are up, and the NCF wants to ensure that camp is able to continue to meet this need. Toward this end, the NCF Board of Directors has approved a donation to begin the establishment of Scholarship Fund, the interest and income from which will be used to provide financial assistance to deserving campers. Please consider making a special contribution to the Scholarship Fund to provide access to the Nature Camp experience to every child who wants to attend.

Fall Hike Planned

The fourth annual Fall Hike Day will take place on Saturday, 16 October 2010. Paul Cabe, Leigh Ann Beavers, and Chris Chamberlin have once again generously and graciously agreed to provide a turkey dinner with all the trimmings (a vegetarian option will be available) to follow a day of hiking the ridges and valleys around Nature Camp. For the past three autumns, this event has drawn a delightfully broad cross-section of the Nature Camp family — current and former campers, counselors, parents, and friends — together for a memorable time of recreation, fellowship, and enjoyment of the season's changing palette — and to raise funds for the Nature Camp Foundation. We will gather at camp at 10:00 AM and depart by 10:30; there will be several hikes of varying difficulty and length from which to choose. Bring your own lunch, snacks, water, etc. (squishies not provided). The cost is \$20 per person, or \$50 maximum per family; children 10 and under with a parent may eat for free. Please bring checks made payable to the Nature Camp Foundation. To reserve a space (and to request vegetarian fare) please e-mail director Flip Coulling at director@naturecamp.net or call (540) 460-7897 by October 10. Note that no baby-sitting service will be available during the hikes. In the event of inclement or uncertain weather, call Flip or camp (540) 377-2491 the morning of October 16 to see if hikes are still on (dinner will be in any event). We hope to see many of you there!

News of Friends

Sam Ripley, camper from the early 1960's, is the trail supervisor for the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club and recently received a lifetime achievement award from the National Park Service, along with his wife.....**Walter Mehring** has gone digital! Check out his web site at <http://www.relationshipsrepair.com>.....And while you're at it, be sure to see **Nell Fredericksen's** site at <http://www.nellfredericksen.com>, Nell's artwork is well displayed on her site designed by **Michaux Lowry Hood****Tom Wieboldt** spent most of 2009 helping with a project on Virginia hawthorns for the "Flora of Virginia" project at Virginia Tech. **Ali Wieboldt** reports that her jewelry business is picking up after a recession-related slowdown. Their daughter Elsa, a second-generation Nature Camper, had a trip to South Africa with her church youth group. They'll be missing Adult Session this year.....seems Tom has a conference in Italy and Ali and Elsa feel compelled to keep him company during this terrible hardship.....**Steve Fisher** is musically busy in Fredericksburg, editing music by C.P.E. Bach and Haydn and giving talks on them at conferences all over, editing the newsletter of the Mozart Society of America and playing viola in several groups. Perhaps the most exciting thing is that a local orchestra just performed a Haydn symphony that had been lost until Steve rediscovered it in 1976.....**Anne Judkins Campbell** was chair of her church's pastoral search committee last year, and is still active in the quilting group as well.

Answer to Trivia question #2: 1942 or 1943 by Charles Thornton, with an excursion to the talus slope on Torry Ridge overlooking Nature Camp and Sherando Lake.

Reunion Information

Fee Structure: \$40 per person for the entire weekend, or **\$16 plus \$4 per meal**. Kids under 12 get in free, but do not receive a T-shirt. Extra shirts will be available in the canteen at the reunion. Even if you plan to attend the entire reunion, please check the meal boxes so that our chefs can plan accordingly.

Please indicate the gender of each attendee so we can determine whether the bunkhouses will fill. If you plan on other accommodations than the BBH or GBH, please tell us what your plans are.

Do to the high volume of interest in this reunion and the limited space at Nature Camp, we have decided to try to level the playing field for those who are not connected to social networking sites. Please postmark your registration form no earlier than **JUNE 1st**. Registration forms will **not** be accepted before this date; acceptance will be on a first-come first-serve basis. You will receive a confirmation email/phone call when we receive your registration.

Pre-payment for the weekend is not recommended because refunds are somewhat of a hassle. Payment can be made at the reunion in September. If you are certain that you will be able to attend you may send a check along with the registration form. Please make checks payable to **Nature Camp Foundation**.



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Contact us: The Nature Camp Foundation, PO Box 3091, Lynchburg, VA 24503

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