



Willson Wanderings

YMCA Camp Willson's December 2007 Alumni Newsletter

From the Director...

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! Outdoor Education ended just before Thanksgiving and we are now in "down time" mode – a skeleton staff, no noise in the dining hall at meal times and quiet – except for the hustle and bustle of our staff office time. We are certainly busy with the finalization of the summer camp brochure, beginning staff recruitment, revamping/developing classes and Outdoor Education programs and booking/serving weekend groups of all kinds. The horses all have their winter fur and the old guys are getting their extra feed to be ready for riding this summer. Properties staff are working on all those projects that can't be done when the kids are here and staff are also working in some well deserved vacation time.

We want to thank all of you being a part of the Willson family. We enjoy hearing from so many of you throughout the year and some of the happenings in your lives. For me personally, most of you will always be around 20 years old, wearing shorts, with our female staff's hair pulled back with no make up... Funny how the years go by!

Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 16, 2008** for our **90th Anniversary celebration**. Our committee will be meeting to plan a great day/weekend of events to recognize this wonderful milestone in Willson's history. I hope you will be able to make it back for another dip in Lake Mac-O-Chee, another chorus of your favorite camp song, lots of time for showing your family all the great things you did at Willson and reliving some of those stories you will never tell me about (and got away with).

One big project that we are currently working on is the design and construction of the **Tracy Rhea Memorial Amphitheatre**. We are currently working with a landscape architect to design a waterfront amphitheatre to memorialize long time camper, Men's Camper, Fishing Camp Director and friend – Tracy Rhea. While we are in the early planning stages, it will be a place near/overlooking the lake (couldn't put it anywhere else), that will be very cool and functional for the campers (he wouldn't have it any other way). It will be large enough to hold all the campers and staff. It will have lots of uses and filled with singing, laughter and friends throughout the year. We will keep you posted as the design and costs materialize and hope you will consider a 3 to 5 year pledge toward the completion of the Tracy Rhea Memorial Amphitheatre!

May each of you have a blessed holiday season filled with joy and thanksgiving!

Anne Brienza
Executive Director

**Has your address changed? Email address changed? Please let us know!
Know of someone not receiving this email? Let us know so we can include them!**

director@ymcacampwillson.org or 800-423-0427.

On the Construction Front...



Townhouse Construction is Progressing!

Our new staff housing is moving toward reality! Double D Construction hopes to have the 3 apartments completed around March of 2008. Each apartment will have 3 bedrooms and much more space than our current housing has. The townhouse is located below the dining hall and in front of the current boardwalk, on the lake road. Our thanks goes out to Grange Insurance for their generous donation in making this project a reality!

Dining Hall Porch Addition

Remember driving into camp for the first time and wondering where you were supposed to go? No more! We are finishing up the construction of a porch on the dining hall. Properties Director John Dickerson and staff Jerry Stenger, Gary Heath and Dale Ward have done a great job making it look great!



This winter, our “in-house” projects include

- the remodeling of the Shawnee/Chippewa (Cabins Y & M for you “old folk”), adding 2 more showers per cabin (a total of 3 showers per cabin)
- New floor and drinking fountains for the Conference Center (hard to believe that the building is now 23 years old!)
- A new Boat Dock (thanks to the generosity of so many Men’s Campers)
- In the spring/summer, we will be building a new treehouse at Frontier and replacing Frontier Beach’s overnight shelter.

If you have some extra time on the weekends and have good carpentry skills, we could use your help on the *indoor* work of building the boat docks. Give us a call if you can help!

On the Program Front... Some upcoming programs you might want to get involved in!

Quilt Camp: February 29 – March 2, 2008

Family Day: April 5 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm (summer camp tours & playing at camp)

Women’s Weekend: April 18-20, 2008

Family Day: April 26 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm (summer camp tours & playing at camp)

Horselover's Weekend: May 9 – 11, 2008

Christian Leadership Conference (for current staff): May 9 – 11, 2008

Summer Camp Open House & Tours: May 18, 2008, 2:00-4:00

Memorial Day Family Camp: May 24-26, 2008 (may be a waiting list)

Summer Camp (8 different weeks): June 15- August 9, 2008

90th Anniversary Camp Celebration: August 16, 2008

Men's Camp: August 22 – 29, 2008

Labor Day Family Camp: August 30 – September 1, 2008

Women's Weekend: September 19 – 21, 2008

Horselover's Weekend: September 26- 28, 2008

Fall Family Camp: October 17 – 19, 2008

Camper Winter Reunion: Dec 20-21, 2008

If you are part of a group of 20 or more (scouts, church, school, corporation, social service agency, family reunion or any other group, please give us a call to book your dates now!

Some Ways You Can Make Willson a Better Place to serve kids!

Wish List

Household Items

- Twin beds, furniture to outfit our new staff housing (kitchen, bedroom & living room; lamps too)
- Microwave oven

Recreation Items

- Sports Equipment for the field house (basketballs, volleyballs, soccer balls, tennis, softball mitts, and bats, frisbees)
- Canoes, rowboats, lifejackets, paddles & oars, trolling motors
- Corn Hole and Hilly Billy Golf Games (we can provide directions if willing to make)
- Horses, Horse Trailer and horse tack
- Bungee cords (all sizes)
- Sno Cone Machine
- Laminating Machine
- Bed Sheets (all sizes) for craft projects
- Yarn, craft supplies

Office Items

- Computer Flat Screen Monitors and older model laptops (for summer staff (especially international staff to stay connected to home
- White Three Ring Binders (1-1 ½ inch)
- Office Supplies (scissors, post it notes)

Maintenance Items

- 12" Miter Saw
- Nail Gun
- Maintenance Vehicle (Mule, Gator, etc.)
- Trencher
- Plastic Storage Containers (3-10 gallon size)
- Hand Tools (screwdrivers, hammers, wrenches, gardening supplies such as rakes, pruning equipment etc.
- Landscaper Rake for 3 point hitch
- Trees

Volunteer Opportunities

- Be a committee member for our 90th Anniversary celebration
- Help build the boat dock and other projects (carpentry skills required)
- Professional skills such as architecture, interior design, marketing, web design etc.
- Help raise funds (contact 5 – 10 friends/families/businesses) to provide scholarships for kids to attend camp



Row 1: April Stephens (Equestrian Ass't), Mike Costlow (Assoc. Prog.Dir), Lindsay Costlow (Jack of all Trades), Annie Roeth (OE), Kori Keck (OE Director)

Row 2: Nick Miranda (OE), Dale Ward (Properties), Jerry Stenger (Properties), Gary Heath (Custodian), Ben Long (OE), Maggie Haverfield (Associate Exec)

Row 3: Beth Powers (Equestrian Dir), Amanda Bullock, Laura LeFebvre (OE), Anne Brienza (Exec), Doug Wetsch (Conf Director), Fay Liang (OE), Dora Mann (Food Service Director), Donna Tingler (Food Service), Maria Berry (food service), Rekah Spragen (OE), Eric Connelly (OE)

Absent: Corey Wallace (OE), Heather Wood (OE Ass't Dir), John Dickerson (Properties Director)



Congratulations to **Annie Roeth**, Summer Camp Special Opps Dir (read: does anything the Conf & Summer Director need help with) & Camp Photographer for winning the American Camp Association, Camping Magazine **2007 Golden Lens Award** for the picture printed at left. Please visit:

http://www.ymcacolumbus.org/willson/willson_summer_camp.php to see additional pictures taken by Annie & congratulations to her on this prestigious award!

Alumni Updates & Recollections

- ☺ Imagine Anne's surprise on an October day, walking into Columbus's Brice Road Burger King and seeing Ass't Manager **Brent Bellis** (1995-2000 camper; 2001-03 staff). We had a great visit (although I was already lost on my way to a soccer game. Brent later wrote: I miss Willson sooooo much. Everything about it. I think about it all the time, from camp days, CIT, even when I first started to work there. My parents had to drive me a "hour and a half" for the weekend so I could help out Indian Guides. During those summers It really became my family. Campers and all. I remember seeing the sisters every year, Donnon who could only be in my cabin or none at all. Walking Ben & Jerry (goats) with the kids, when really they walked us. I still remember exactly how it felt when one morning at when I was a camper at ranch a horse bit me. I tell my wife stories and can't wait to have 12 kids of my own. She thinks I'm nuts. I'm always proud to tell every one " I grew up a Y kid". I feel special in that way, I take that every where I go. I see camp and the Y in everything I do. I thank you and Camp Willson. I tell my wife I would love to dedicate myself to the Y, Willson in general if I could.
- ☺ **Tim Blunn** continues to recuperate from his October knee injury from playing "football". He will have another surgery in January. He and fiancé **Katie Pace** (2006 & camper from 199-2002) continue to travel back and forth "across the pond" for their engagement party and Christmas.
- ☺ Our prayers and best wishes go out to **Cody Brown** (summer 2007) as he heads to Bagdad Iraq. We appreciate your service to our country.
- ☺ **Kimberly Clark** was a camper from 1992-1996, with her last 3 years as LIT's and a CIT. She shares that Camp Willson is one of her best memories of being a kid. Kimberly currently lives in Galloway (Columbus suburb)
- ☺ **Shawn Coner** (1994-98 camper, 2005 & 07 staff) stopped in to visit. He has returned to the Columbus area after spending the fall in Chicago and will be joining the Outdoor Education staff in February.
- ☺ Congratulations to Associate Program Director **Mike and Lindsay Costlow** on the November birth of their daughter Naomi Ruth!
- ☺ **Tammer Cristman** (1992) is now living in Vermont and shares: Just wanted to drop a quick note to say "hi". I did reach my goal that I mentioned to Anne years ago when she asked me where did I see myself in 10-15 years! I own and run a breeding, boarding, training, and lesson stable in Vermont. Next summer we are starting up our first week of day horse camp for young riders! Tam is married and has a 21 year old step-son and a 4 year old son, as well as caring for 13 horses and many more that she trains and retrains!
- ☺ **Leann Eikenberry** (2004-06) continues on as a nanny in Columbus, as well as working the morning shift at the Liberty Township/Powell YMCA in Delaware Co.
- ☺ **Christine Freshcorn Galvin** (1990-92, Summer Camp) has left teaching at Bellefontaine High School and is now the Principal at Hardin Northern High School (Kenton OH). She is married to Irishman **Sean** (1988-92, OE & Summer Camp) and he is the Executive Director of the Hardin Co YMCA) and they have 2 children.
- ☺ Congratulations to **Andy Hauman** ('05-'07, Summer Camp & Outdoor Ed) for his new camp job Camp Coordinator at Beacon Lodge, a camp serving children and adults with special needs in PA. He will have a January 2008 start date. He will be responsible for coordinating the operation of the adult and youth programs as well as hiring/training/supervising of the seasonal staff.
- ☺ Welcome **Lee Heintz**, a cook with Margaret Wilcox in 1970. Lee reconnected with us in October when she attended Russell Road Church retreat at Willson.
- ☺ From **Mark Henton** (South Africa, 1998-2003): "It has been over two years since I was in the great USA, so in late September I packed up for two and a half weeks. The goal was to catch up with most

people that I had not seen in 2 or 4 years. Straight off the plane, Doug Wetsch picked me up and off to the Fosnaugh's (Fos & Michelle) with their two beautiful little girls. Next the world of Willson and all folk that still call it home.

On first weekend, many people from my time at Willson came from all over to visit. Namely: Kate Powell, Karen Obringer, Cindy Hietter, Caroline Beachy, Armani (Amran Ahmad) and his wife, Beth, Tim Rudmann and all the locals of Willson. Which meant loads to me, seeing everyone. The following week Maggie Haverfield and myself headed out to Boston via Pennsylvania, to visit Liz Ellsworth and her new husband Andy. Said hello, stayed the night and drove back to Ohio. The following week went down to West Virginia for a spot of white water rafting goodness. Than over to Virginia to Mr Jay King's fine establishment and a bit of CD shopping. Back up to Ohio for the last supper with everyone, plus Sarah Pryde, and then back to Scotland. As for my everyday life, I'm an Outdoor Instructor at, funny enough, an Outdoor Centre based an hour and a half drive from Glasgow. It is set on the edge of the sea, surrounded by hill. As Centre's are much smaller in the UK, than in the USA, we have to take groups off site to do activities, such as Climbing, Canoe/Kayaking, Caving, gorge walking etc. We use the outdoors for Personal and Social Development with groups. Thank you to everyone that came to visit me, even if I did not name you by name."

- ☺ We recently received an email from **Jorg Horina** M.D., telling us he was a 19 year old counselor from Austria in 1979, stating his summer at Willson was one of the best times of his life! He is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Medical University of Graz, Austria and is also a jazz guitar player. His last name seemed familiar to me and it made sense when he shared that his younger brother **Michael Horina** was on Willson's staff in 1987. He was inquiring about having his daughter Anja join us on staff this summer!
- ☺ **Doug Keown** was a camper from 1973 and finished his camper years in 1977 as a CIT and on staff from 1978-81. He currently lives in Clermont FL and has fond memories of polar bear swims, mini-bikes, going on a tour of Ohio by bicycle and many more!
- ☺ Congratulations to **David Martin** (Summer 1992-93) on his successful kidney transplant. He is back to work and doing well! Secure in his manhood, I last talked with Dave in WalMart while purchasing a pink Christmas tree with his 8 year old daughter
- ☺ **Leah Miller** (2005-06) sends greetings from Wales, where she is studying this semester. While in the UK, she was able to meet up with **Jo Draper**, and **Jess Williams** was able to pick her up from the Train Station. She was also hoping to catch up with **Becks Griffiths** and **Dan Port!**
- ☺ From "**Oscar**" **Mauricio Ortiz Delgado** (from *Columbia, 2001-03, OE & Summer*): It's heart warming to read and see all the great things that happened last summer and the ones to come. I cannot deny that Willson changed my life and I wish I could work in such a place. You know I was in the US last summer and I really had a great time there. I would love to travel to the US more often now that I have renewed my VISA to the US and that I enjoy good status over there thanks to my position here in Colombia.

I am a programs coordinator right now, so that means that I do not teach that much anymore and I am doing more designing and supervision work on a daily basis.

I am going to England next year where I am taking a 5 months course with the University of Cambridge in order to improve my teaching skills and on the way back I would love to stop by the US and visit you guys at Willson.

As of now the only thing I want to tell you is that I MISS YOU and that you WILLSON have a very special corner in my heart.

- ☺ From **Michelle Pohlable** (Summer 2004) Hi! I feel I have been out of touch for a long time, my apologies! I'm currently living in West Palm Beach, Florida, working as a music therapist for the Hospice of Palm Beach County. I also work privately with a couple of children with autism and I'm starting a music therapy program at a charter school for children with autism down here! I miss Camp Willson, especially the beautiful fall colors that I'm sure are just starting. I think of the camp and staff fondly and hope to visit sometime when I'm up in Ohio! Take care and be blessed! :)
- ☺ Please welcome **Jessica Ferree-Thompson Roberts** to our Alumni group. Jessica was a Ranch Camper and currently lives in Orlando Florida. She writes "I attended Camp Willson from summers 88-92. Those were the best summers of my life! I remember Ranch camp and traditional summer camp with such fondness. I met friends that I still keep in touch with".
- ☺ **Bill Robertson** (Summer 1992, 93 and Outdoor Education) is married and has 5 year old twin boys. Bill and his wife are paramedic and Field Training Officers for Lee County EMS in Southwest Florida.
- ☺ From **Tim Rudmann** (1999-2003): I just accepted the new position of Foster Care Intake Coordinator at Ramey Estep Treatment Foster Care. I am living in Ashland, KY and doing well!

- ☺ **Scott Sanders** (England 2006) writes that he and his girlfriend are expecting a baby on Jan 1, 2008. He has graduated from Leeds Metropolitan University in June with a 2.1 Degree with Merit in Film and Moving Imagery.
- ☺ **Dave Shelby** (camper & staff - 1937-49) and his wife stopped by for a walk around camp to view the beautiful fall colors. Sorry I missed you!
- ☺ **Jeb Smith** (2004-06) stopped in for a weekend visit. He is finishing his senior year at Fairmont State University.
- ☺ **Jay Terveen** shares: "Things are going well for me in the Coast Guard. This spring I graduated from the USCG's Marine Science Technician School in Yorktown, VA, and luckily I was able to get stationed back in Ohio, at the Marine Safety Unit in Toledo. My wife and I have added to the family as well, we now have a 2 ½ year old daughter named Savannah, and a son named Chase who recently had his first birthday. We just bought our first house and have been keeping quite busy with the two little ones!"
- ☺ **Jessica Yarnell** (Summer 2003) is getting married in October and moving to Thailand to work and do ministry. They will be teaching English, tutoring, giving music lessons, working with Rahab ministries (education former prostitutes), contributing to keeping women out of the sex trade industry.
- ☺ **Alaina Zyhowski** (2004-06) in September wrote that she has a part time job working on pre-production and some post-production at Full Circle Studios in Buffalo NY. She is also doing some classroom observations as part of her Canisius College Graduate Childhood Education degree. She plans to graduate in May 2008.
- ☺ Please welcome **Brian Ferguson** (1969-74 summer camper), **Vik Srinivasan** (camper 1988-94), **Mike Hadley** (1977-82), **Merilu Cutri Hill** (1996 Summer Sr Counselor)) and **John P. Kay** (a camper from 1956-58) to our alumni list!



Kathy & Dan Kramer (1974-79) were parent chaperones with their twins during Scottish Corners Elementary Outdoor Education experience. Kathy & Dan met while at camp and were married at Willson. Dan works with Batelle Institute and Kathy is a stay at home mom. Amazingly they both still have their 1978? staff shirts and THEY STILL FIT!





Fred "Hawkeye" Winchester (1973-74) sends pictures and greetings. His face is circled in the 1974 picture. He tells me that in the 1963 cabin picture, Hawkeye is on one end and Thom Peters is on the other end. Is this true? Which is which?

Can anyone identify all the staff? Let me know if you need the picture enlarged!



Alumni Birthdays

| Name | Birthday | Name | Birthday |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| FLEMING, Rosalyn | December 10 | GLAROS, Mike | January 1 |
| REED, Dezaray | December 10 | WOLFE, John | January 1 |
| VERMILLION, Meghann | December 11 | KELLEY, Amy | January 2 |
| SPRAGUE, Meghan | December 12 | LUBBERTS, Sylvia | January 2 |
| BURKEPILE, Shawn | December 16 | PARKE, Janelle | January 3 |
| HIN, Lisette | December 16 | CHAN, Gordon | January 5 |
| BERNHARD, Grace | December 17 | HOOPER, Ryan | January 6 |
| LUNA LOZANO, David | December 18 | RUDMANN, Tim | January 7 |
| SNIVELY, Therese | December 18 | SCHUETZ, Tonya | January 7 |
| DIEKER, Tracy | December 19 | CARPENTER, Miranda | January 8 |
| KING, Heather | December 23 | HIETTER, Cinderella | January 11 |
| QUIRELL, Autro | December 25 | RIDINGER, Christopher | January 11 |
| PLUZHNIKOVA, Vera | December 28 | SMITH, Mark A. | January 16 |
| BAKER, Cindy | December 29 | KOBAYASHI, Hironori | January 18 |
| WEHRUM, Tommy | December 29 | BROWN, Cody | January 19 |
| DANGERFIELD, Jason | December 31 | CACERES, Paulo | January 21 |
| | | COALTER, Rob | January 21 |
| | | ZANDO, Anne Marie | January 22 |

| Name | Birthday |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ERWIN, Cheryl | January 23 |
| BIELECKI, Dan | January 25 |
| WEBER, Winnie | January 28 |
| WILSON, David | January 28 |
| ORTIZ-DELGADO, Oscar | January 30 |

February

| Name | Birthday |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| BAKER, Ryan | February 1 |
| EARLY, Zac | February 1 |
| THORNBURG, Autumn | February 2 |
| HOOLEY, Tessa | February 3 |
| BRITTON, Katlyn | February 4 |

| Name | Birthday |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| LARUE, Zach | February 4 |
| SIBBING, Sjoerd | February 4 |
| COULTER, Suzanne | February 6 |
| STEINGASS, Rikki | February 6 |
| TERVEEN, Jay | February 6 |
| FREEMAN, Marla | February 7 |
| PICKARD, Jami | February 8 |
| WHITE, Amber | February 9 |
| WILCOX, Frank | February 9 |
| WINGLER, Levi | February 10 |
| LINES, Tricia (Patricia) | February 12 |
| LOTUS, Kiah | February 15 |
| WILLIAMS, Jessica | February 16 |

Please send us your updates, as well as any recollections and memories you have from your time at Willson. If you know of alumni not receiving this mailing, please have them contact us or send us their email address so we can add them to our alumni list. We are preparing for our **90th Anniversary**, which will be celebrated on **Saturday, August 16, 2008**. For those coming from a distance, housing will be available on both the 15th and 16th! Mark your calendar now and plan on coming to celebrate 90 years of camping!