

January 2007 Alumni Newsletter from YMCA Camp Willson!

Our 90th Anniversary is coming up in 2008 and **Abby Rose**, who is currently an events planner in Columbus and **Chris “Fos” Fosnaugh**, a big organizer for the Red Cross has jumped on board to be a part of our 90th Anniversary Planning Committee. If you are interested in helping with this, please let us know so we can start meeting!

If you have any contact information on former Willson staff and campers, please have them complete the online form on our website at www.ymcacampwillson.org or give us a call at 800-423-0427. We'd love to add them to our email list.

Summer Camp Registration Begins!

Please take a look at our new summer camp brochure! Visit www.ymcacampwillson.org to see our 2007 summer camp brochure. Please feel free to share with your child, a sibling, neighbor, niece or nephew or anyone else you think would enjoy the summer camp experience. We are currently taking registrations!

Our newest summer camp program: **Youth Jazz Camp!** We're collaborating with the Jazz Arts Group of Columbus to have a spectacular week of Jazz for kids entering grades 7 – 10. Jazz Arts is bringing a great group of musician educators to work with approximately 30-40 youth to work in small group combo groups. It's going to be a great companion to our already successful **Garage Band**, bringing the rock & roll sound to camp for a week!

Ladies, join us April 20-22 and/or Sept 21-23 for **Women's Weekend!** We have a great weekend of crafts, sports, massages, great food and fellowship! Both **Memorial Day and Labor Day Family Camps** are full, but please consider joining us for October 19-21 Family Fall Festival.

Special Challenge!

A Challenge has been issued! For the past two years, our Men's Camp group and several individuals have been raising funds to replace our big boat dock, last updated in the 1970's. Their efforts are currently at \$10,000 toward the \$15,000 needed. We have an individual who has issued a challenge. This individual will give \$2,500 toward the \$5,000 needed, if others will come forward and donate the remaining \$2,500 before summer camp begins. Donations of any size will help! Any additional gifts (beyond the \$2,500) will go toward the purchase of new rowboats. If you are able to donate to this effort, please let us know. You can either give us a call with a credit card or send a check. On behalf of over 1,000 children and staff, we thank you in advance! Over the past several years, Men's Camp and other donors have replaced the swim docks, purchased the water trampoline, fun bug dock and replaced the sailboat dock, in addition to remodeling the lower level of the boathouse. The replacement of the boat dock should have the waterfront in great shape for the next decade or two!

Staff updates

For those of you from the 1990's, we forgot to tell you the last newsletter, that long time (and all summer) camper Zach Goldsmith sent his son to camp in 2006! We had a nice visit and it was so good to see both him and Zach's father again. Boy, do I have memories about camper Zach.

If I ever needed to know about anything going on at camp, Zach was the man! He has a great son too!

It's always about our favorite camp activity – Lost & Found!: During the summer of '05, OE Naturalist and Summer Assistant Director, **Cindy Hietter** was at the waterfront with staff, who were diving in the deep area of the swim area. Along with the usual stuff you pull out of the lake, they brought up an old name tag. Imagine everyone's surprise (especially the owner!) when we identified it as belonging to that Australian wonder & former waterfront director **Todd McSwan** ('93-'94). It now sits in Todd office with distinction!

Mid '70's staff Jeff & Maggie Harriman, checked at Christmas time, wishing all well. Jeff is currently the Band Director with Whitehall Yearling High School (and was Beth Powers (1986-present), Parker Quincel (2006) & Tommy Medor's (2006) Band Director. Maggie is a teacher with Upper Arlington Schools.

Other folks that we have heard from in the past month:

- ☺ Kris Erickson Stewart (Program Manager from 1977-80) is a “professional volunteer” living in High Point NC (near Bruce Boyer) and spends the summer in Spearfish SD.
- ☺ Randy Frazier (2001) is teaching school at St Matthews in Columbus and is directing the Youth Version of Annie this spring. Since we have all wooden beds in the cabins now, we had no metal bunks to loan for the production!
- ☺ Caroline Beachy (2001-'04) is still in Michigan, but moving down the road a bit.
- ☺ Mike Pettry (1979-'82) is moving to Clarksburg WV from Kansas and works for the FBI since 1997.
- ☺ Jane Versele Hudson (late 70's) is living in Lakeview (near Indian Lake) and is a hairdresser. Her children Skyler, Forrest and Logan are married and doing well. She has several grandchildren.
- ☺ Amy Amari (long time camper and 2005 Trailblazer Counselor) is preparing for graduation from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Political Science. Last summer, she was a Day Camp Director with the YMCA of Central OH.
- ☺ Jamie Last from England (1994) sent Christmas wishes to all
- ☺ After Christmas Eve church service, Anne Brienza ran into Mark Losey (1990) in Columbus. Mark is now an attorney, living in Columbus, and has a brand new baby!
- ☺ LeeAnn Jefferis Hritz (1990-'93) called in and is considering sending her 7 year old son, Wilder to camp this summer!
- ☺ Margaret & Frank Wilcox send greetings in their annual Christmas letter. Frank was the camp director throughout the 1970's, beginning many programs that are now institutions at Willson. They also heralded in the winterized/year round aspects of camp programming. Margaret was the wonderful cook and did many “extras” to make camp hum! As they both begin another decade of life, they are living in Portland OR, near daughter Cate/Cathy, and while have some health concerns, are thankful for a new year!
- ☺ Want to know why Cross Beach is so named? Just before Program Director **Thom Peters** left Willson to run the Albuquerque YMCA Camp, Thom and brother **Phil** built a cross and placed it on the beach. It was made from a couple of beams left over from the picnic shelter that became the toboggan run at the Ranch. The cross stayed in place through the 90's, although we're unsure when it finally met its' demise. It is still known as Cross Beach and an overnight shelter is located near the area and used by the kids every week, where they

enjoy smores, pie iron pizza's or hobo dinners! Thom lives in Wisconsin, working for the Milwaukee YMCA, as a vice president.

- ☺ Travis Arnold (Ranch 2002), writes in to say he continues to be active duty Army and is now stationed in Rio Rico Arizona in support of the Border Patrol Mission. He has been back from Iraq for over a year now. (Travis: thanks so much for your military service!)
- ☺ Don Emerick (camper from 1996-2002 & staff in 2003) is living in Athens and was recalling that his years at Willson were very fond and have many, many memories!
- ☺ Lori Bernard wrote in from the website, letting us know she was a camper at Willson in 1980 and sent the following note: "I loved becoming a "ragger" in the woods, made some awesome friends, had a crush on one of the counselors, the food was actually good...froze at the polar bear swim...learned to cook a whole meal in foil on a fire. It was great! Congratulations to all our 1980 staff who made a difference to this camper!"
- ☺ Clint (93-'99) & Jen Bradley ('96-'98) Rardon share that son, Evan turned one in Sept and child #2 is due in April! Clint teaches school with Southwestern City Schools.
- ☺ Chris Heim used the website alumni page to reconnect. He is now from Mason OH and was an assistant counselor in 1975!

Births

- ☺ Congratulations to Scott ('92 & '93) & Jill Hiles on the birth of their first child, Isabelle Eileen, born January 4. Scott's father, Dan is our Fishing Camp Director
- ☺ Congratulations to Anji (Hadley, Summer 1999) Hook and husband Sam on the birth of their second child Garrett Michael on Dec 30. Older sister Alice is thrilled to help mom with the new baby!

Thank You!

Special thanks to long time camper and staff member Steve Davis ('83 – '89) for all the work he has done in making signs around camp. His most recent addition was the new reflective signs on all of the summer cabins. His family attends Labor Day Family Camp each year and his daughters Samantha and Jessica both attended camp this past summer.