



Happenings from Camp Horizons



March 2012
Volume 30, No. 1

Preparations in full force to ready camp for summer season

Work is in full swing as facilities maintenance crews and others get Camp Horizons ready for the spring Outdoor Learning Center season and for the 30th season of summer camp here. Several new projects are underway and should be completed within weeks.

The most visible is the work at Lake Philippa. Last fall, the lake was drained, and the fish were transferred to the Adventure Village pond. Excavation crews then dredged the lake to make it deeper. Water is now filling the lake, but work continues on the shores. The old dock is being replaced with a new, larger dock, and just down from the dock a new boathouse is being constructed. Once it is complete, all kayaks, canoes and assorted equipment will be able to be stored in one location, out of the weather. In May, the Wet Willy water slide and zip line will be put back up.

The former maintenance building at camp has been transformed into the Outdoors Depot and now houses all outdoor programming equipment, including mountain bikes, climbing ropes, kayaks and more. The Depot also has space for Outdoors staff to meet to plan activities and events for OLC and camp.

The wooden benches at the main campfire circle have been removed, and new, sturdy ones will be in place within the next few weeks.

The archery circle has new hay bales and new arrow-catching netting, and will soon have a new roof over the target area.

Cabins are being opened, thoroughly cleaned and readied for camp, and supplies and equipment are being ordered and checked for departments and programs.

Crews also are starting the annual spring cleanup of trails throughout camp to ready them for mountain biking and horseback trail rides.

The "equine" staff already has begun staff training as the horses



Top right, Gary Bodkin and Leslie Michael work on the new dock and boathouse at Lake Philippa. Above, Gary and Tom Hall measure for new benches at the campfire circle. At right, Scot Dovel checks equipment at the new Outdoors Depot.

are bidding goodbye to their winter vacation and starting to be ridden in preparation for the spring OLC season and first session of the summer Equestrian Camp.

Soon, all the work will be completed, and camp will be ready and waiting for the return of our great summer campers.

Put some adventure in your life with Horizons Adventure Camp!

Love camp but maybe looking for a bit more adventure in your life? Like to try new things and push your limits? Then, Horizons Adventure Camp may be just for you! This year, our one-week Adventure Program, for ages 14-17, focuses on rock climbing and caving, with on-camp activities like the challenge course and climbing wall and off-camp expeditions to area caves and climbing spots, including to Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center in West Virginia. NROC



is home to the Via Ferrata climbing challenge and North Fork Valley Canopy Tour, but also boasts some of the best vertical rock climbing faces in the east. Adventure campers will gain new skills and make new friends as our experienced instructors lead them through a variety of breathtaking experiences. Camp Horizons provides instruction, equipment and transportation to and from all activities.

Central to the Adventure program is our "Challenge by Choice" philosophy that allows campers to set individual goals and feel pride in their accomplishments, regardless of their experience or skill level.

So come on, put some adventure in your life! Adventure Camp runs during Session 6: Aug. 19-25.

Take advantage of our new **Multi-Session Discount:** Register for 2 or more sessions and save \$30 per session; and our **Sibling Discount:** \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.

The Director's Corner



After an unusually mild winter, spring has exploded here at Camp Horizons. This is one of my favorite times of the year – mainly because Camp comes alive with groups visiting the Outdoor Learning Center here at Horizons, and summer camp staff returning to get ready for the busy summer season.

Lori Ostrem, our summer camp director, visited camp in early March to start planning for camp and hiring our talented summer staff. She will work closely with Chris Smith, our new director of program operations for all of Horizons' outdoor programs.

This year marks the second season of **Camp Up with People**, a partnership with the international **Up with People** that combines summer camp activities with performing arts, service projects and global citizenship. Last summer, CUWP was truly an international event as teens, ages 14-17, came from 12 different countries and 10 different states. While CUWP is a separate program from Camp Horizons, the two camps do come together for special events and the weekly talent shows here at camp.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the start of Camp Horizons. So much has changed since 1983. We've added new facilities over the years, and have changed programming to keep pace with the interests of our campers, but we've always kept our focus on providing kids with a place they can call their summer home away from home where they can have fun, be accepted and respected for who they are and offer that same respect to others. At Camp Horizons, we are many, we are one.

Have a great school year, and keep in touch! We can't wait to welcome all our returning campers home to Camp Horizons, and extend a warm welcome to our new campers as they experience the magic of summer at Camp Horizons.

John Hall
"Life is for Living!"

Staff 2012

Returning staff build nucleus of program

Our outstanding staff for summer 2012 is taking shape, as we welcome back a number of Camp Horizons veterans to lead our programs and welcome new staff members to the Camp Horizons family. As of March 20, our staff consists of 19 returners and 10 new staff members representing eight countries and four states. International staff members come from England, Northern Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Ireland, Hungary and Scotland, and staff members from the United States come from North Dakota, Virginia, Florida, and Texas.

Lori Ostrem returns as our Summer Camp Director, with Chris Coventry as Program Director. Hannah Dunn will be the Equestrian Director, and Jenny Walker is returning as a head counselor. Aquatics Lead is Devin Hall, Visual Arts Lead is Roy Macias, Outdoors Lead is Grace Corapi, and Horseback Lead is Emily Middleton. The Equestrian staff includes Rosie Proud and Cathy Cass. Other staff members are Terrie-Lea McKone, nanny; Judit Molnar and Vanda Virosztek, kitchen/laundry; Shannen Athey and Liz Heilbronner, aquatics; Emma Brown, Luke Clayson, Jessi Gower, Hamish McKenzie and Harry Millar, performing arts; Jen Wilson, visual arts; Alice Latham and Alex Kindley, sports; and William Ballew, Hayley Davis, Scott Dovel, Sam Fine, Tom Morris and Shone Tavendale, outdoors.

A complete listing of our 2012 summer staff will appear in the June edition of *The Globe*.



Here's to our 2012 Leadership Campers!

Camp Horizons is excited to announce our Leadership Campers for 2012 -- Chloe Berry, Joan Coates, Alex Holberger, Isabel Incorvati, Vanessa Thomas-Paul, Issy Ward and Olivia Whitaker.

These outstanding returning campers are rising high school seniors who will be at camp for the three-week Leadership session. This program gives students entering their final year of high school the training, leadership skills, responsibility and self-confidence they need to excel in school, college, careers and other aspects of their lives. Leadership campers help lead workshops and activities at camp, and plan special camp-wide programs. They receive training in communication, leadership, teamwork, group dynamics, conflict resolution, camp philosophy and more. They also plan educational and/or service projects that they implement when they get home. The program includes special activities including an overnight canoe trip, special dinners, the challenge courses and the Via Ferrata climbing adventure and/or the North Fork Valley Canopy Tour in West Virginia.

There are a few spaces left for male campers in the Leadership B session.

Horizons Family Album: Chris Smith



For Chris Smith, the new director of program operations for all of Horizons' outdoor programs, coming here is kind of a homecoming. Chris graduated from nearby Harrisonburg High School, and his parents and extended family still live in the area. So for him, his wife and two young children, relocating from the Roanoke, Va., area to the

central Shenandoah Valley has a lot of appeal.

But just as important as the lure of being close to family after 11 years in Roanoke are the possibilities that Chris sees in his new position at Horizons. "This job brings everything I've done in the last decade into one place. I've never been a part of an organization that has so many opportunities."

In his new position, Chris will oversee the program operations of not only Camp Horizons but also the Outdoor Learning Center at Horizons, Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center in West Virginia, Camp Up with People and Horizons Horseback.

He comes well prepared for the task. Chris has a bachelor's degree in Outdoor Recreation and Management from Radford University, and a master's degree in Education with a focus on non-formal adult education from Virginia Tech. For the last eight years, he has served as the associate director of the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake in southwest Virginia.

That facility serves as a summer camp for 4,000 children through the 4-H program and specialty camps, and offers outdoor education programming for private schools, civic and church groups, and adult education programs throughout the year. In short, it is much like the Horizons network of outdoor programs, but on a larger, but less diverse scale.

Chris also has served as a program director for a YMCA

camp and in various positions at summer camps in Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia.

His initial draw to the field of outdoor education was his passion for adventure – whitewater kayaking and rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking and hiking. His initial focus was on adventure education, but the longer he was in the field, the more he understood the need to diversify. "I realized that a traditional residential camp (like Camp Horizons) could have a huge impact on youngsters' lives," and wanted to work to make those kinds of opportunities available for kids who otherwise might not have the chance to experience summer camp.

Chris smiles when he describes the path that led to his decision to come to Camp Horizons. "It was by accident," he says. He met camp owner John Hall through a mutual colleague, and John thought Chris would be a good fit for the Horizons family. Chris' initial response was "I'm not on the market." After all, he was settled in a great job, and his young family was happy in Roanoke. But that first 10-minute conversation with Hall morphed into several long meetings, and eventually Chris decided to join Horizons.

His goals for this season are to build relationships with internal and external staff, evaluate programs and procedures and build operational efficiencies. His long-term goals are to "see us maximize opportunities with camp. This is an amazing camp program, and there are plenty of kids who could benefit from what we have to offer."

Chris calls NROC "such a unique opportunity. I want the world to know about it." Likewise, he sees countless opportunities for expansion of programs and services at OLC. "We've got so much to offer that people just don't know about. I want to serve more folks, to get them away from their day-to-day lives" to enjoy outdoor activities and programs.

Chris also envisions expanding Horizons Horseback into an active year-round program.

In short, Chris looks at the Horizons family of operations and sees opportunity...to share the activities he loves with others, and, in doing so, provide new chances for people to get active, enjoy the outdoors and learn from nature.

Camp Horizons celebrates its 30th year of summer fun!

Camp Horizons is 30 years old this year, and we're celebrating throughout the summer season with special activities, programs and memorabilia on display to remind us of how we started and just how much we've grown. Camp owner and founder John Hall said that although Camp Horizons has grown and changed through the decades, "our commitment to provide fun, interesting and exciting outdoor activities for kids in a beautiful, safe and welcoming environment remains constant."

To cap off the 30th anniversary, Camp Horizons will host a staff reunion during Labor Day weekend 2012. We're planning a busy weekend of camp activities and events, including some to benefit the Horizons Learning Foundation camp scholarship fund to provide deserving campers with the opportunity to go



to Camp Horizons, plus plenty of time to catch up with friends from the past and relive those great Camp Horizons experiences. Our Staff Reunion planning committee is finalizing plans, so if you have any great ideas about how to celebrate, please let us know! E-mail ideas to Alumni@horizonsva.com.

Alumni News, Views and Happenings

1990s

Gary Atherton (1994-1996) and his wife welcomed twins Lucy and Claire in February in Colorado.



Lucy and Claire Atherton

Melanie (Rotz) Hartman (1993-1995) has written a book called "Someone I Love Has a Monster." This is a free children's book for families facing a recent cancer diagnosis. It is designed to provide assistance to families on how to talk to young children about cancer, the treatments and side effects while being gentle and entertaining enough that the children will be engaged in the book. All of the dialogue in the book was inspired by conversations with Melanie's own children while dealing with her recent cancer diagnosis. Find out more at <http://someoneilove.com>.

Former camper **Taryn Dinella (1990s)** writes "I attended camp in my teens and enjoyed the Scuba Adventure Camp. We stayed in West Virginia for a week and I remember caving."

2001

Sandy (Asbury) and Joel Metcalf (both 2001) welcomed daughter Lilly, Feb. 15 in New York.

The Metcalfs with daughter Lilly.



Welcome Baby Isaac!

Kimberley (Reid) Wells (2001-2002) and husband James welcomed Isaac in February in Edinburgh, Scotland.

2003



Lisa and Beyers Geldenhuys enjoy their day.

Lisa Gee and Beyers Geldenhuys (both 2003) were married in March in South Africa.

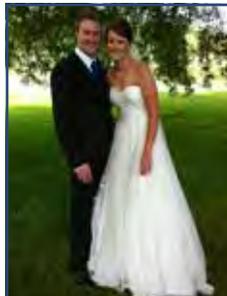
Claire Mitchell (2003) graduated from Royal Air Force Officers Academy in March in the United Kingdom.



Claire Mitchell

2004

Alex Bellisle (2004-2007, 2009) and **Kehl Mandt (2003-2004)** ran into each other on a flight from Houston to Chicago recently.



Nicole & Craig Hume

Nicole Millar (2004) and Craig Hume were married in January in Auckland, New Zealand. Nicole is finishing her Bachelor of Science in sport and exercise science in New Zealand.

2006

Former camper **Kurie Fitzgerald (2001-2006)** is a senior at Temple University and will graduate in May with a degree in Public Relations.

2011

Kate Shaver (2011) will be working at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, starting this summer. She writes "This past summer was one of the best summers of my life!"

Staff Update

OLC and Camp Horizons staff member **Devin Hall**, a junior at Eastern Mennonite University, was one of three actors to perform in "Art," a comedy about art and friendship. The play, staged at EMU last February, has been nominated to compete in the 2013 Kennedy Center/American College Theater competition, and Devin has been nominated to compete for the Kennedy Center/American College Theater Irene Ryan acting scholarship.

An original wall sculpture by Nature Instructor **Bruce Rosenwasser** is part of the collection of works by local artists owned by and on display at Rockingham Memorial Hospital. To view Bruce's work, visit him on Facebook at Shenandoah Wildwood Designs.

Summer Camp Director **Lori Ostrem** went to the United Kingdom over spring break to visit with **Chris Coventry, Hannah Dunn, Jenny Walker** and others. Chris and Hannah are working for international camp staff placement agencies in Liverpool and Scotland, respectively, and are helping many of our international staff with their visa paperwork.

Thanks to our Home Show host families!

Special thanks to the families of Emma McCutcheon, Grace Newell and Alex Spellar for hosting a Camp Horizons Home Show. Slots for these shows are still open in April and May, so e-mail us if you'd like to host a home show.

Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our ever-growing Camp Horizons family, so keep in touch! Stop by for a visit, drop us a line or e-mail us to update your address, send information or share any alumni news. Please send news and photos to Alumni@HorizonsVA.com. Visit our Alumni page on our web site, www.CampHorizonsVA.com to see if you have contact information for any of the staff listed there. Also be sure to visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/camphorizonsva, follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/camp_horizons, or check out of camp blog at <http://camphorizons.wordpress.com>.