

**“The Current”
The American
Camping Association
Great Rivers Section
Newsletter
September 2004**

“Current” Notes from the President

Change is in the air. I can hardly believe it is almost October and some days it feels like fall. In just two short months the leadership of our section will be changing. You will find nomination information in the newsletter as well as recognition information. I hope you will wrap your brain around our section needs and help the nominations committee with their quest to secure the future of our section.

In some respects it is hard to believe that three years has passed since you elected me as your president. It has been challenging, rewarding and fun. The best part of the experience has been getting to know you, the members. I hope we will continue to grow our fall conference, our section and our bonds with each other for a very long time.

It is hard for me to refrain from talking about how well I think our section is, how rich our history and how blessed we are. It has only been in serving as your president that I have come to truly appreciate our strength as a section. It is in serving together that we are at our best.

I want to take this time to say Thank You for putting your trust and confidence in me, and for allowing me to grow and gain experience. When I reflect on the past three years, the one thing that comes to the forefront is the strength of our board. It is because of their vision, skills and experiences that we have moved forward. We have an awesome board and a phenomenal section executive.

I hope when asked, you too will respond to the call for help and

serve your section. By doing so you are able to build relationships that enrich your life, gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the camping industry and the people involved in this human development field. We are a diverse and rich section with much to gain from each other. Let's celebrate this together in Nov. at our annual conference.
Lisa Nichols
Great Rivers Section President

All Aboard the Great Rivers Express

You are invited to attend the ACA Great Rivers Annual Conference, Nov. 8-11 at the Y-Camp, near Boone, Iowa. The conference brochure has been mailed, and lots of stimulating sessions have been planned to educate and re-energize camp professionals across our section.

The keynote speaker is Jim Kramer, DVM. He is a speaker, humorist and practicing veterinarian. He will speak on “How to Harness Humor” and “Why the Rich and Famous Wish they Were You”. In addition to the education sessions, another highlight of the conference will be the ACA Great Rivers Annual Meeting on Wednesday morning, followed by a Lunch Train Ride on the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad.

If you did not receive a brochure, contact Marcia at 785-827-3679 ext. 24.

Standards Courses Offered

There are two different Standards Courses being offered at the ACA Great Rivers Annual Conference.

The Standards Course will be held on Monday Nov. 8 from 1-6 p.m. at the Y-Camp, near Boone, Iowa. This course is required for the camp director each year that the camp is accredited. The course is also encouraged for anyone who would like to find out more about the American Camping Association Standards and the Accreditation process. This course is also

available on line from the National Web site, but you must first contact the Standards Chair to arrange the on line course. There will other Standards Courses scheduled this winter. Watch your email for more information.

The Standards Visitor Update Course is required for all visitors every three years. We will be holding this course on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at the Annual Conference, from 2:30-4 p.m. Again, this course is also available on line.

Please contact Linda DuBrul to sign up for either of these courses. (417-862-0004 or ldubrul@dogwoodtrails.org). There is no cost to attend just the Standards Courses.

ACA Standards Revisions

The American Camping Association is in the process of revising the Standards. This is done regularly to assure complying with new regulations and recommendations for the camping industry.

The current Standards will be in effect in 2005 and 2006. The ACA will be field testing new/revised standards this next summer, but not with those due visits for the coming summer.

Each camp due a visit for this coming summer will receive a new copy of the 1998 Standards book that was revised in 2001. Camps being accredited this summer should make sure they have the correct book. You may contact Linda DuBrul or Jim Cherry to verify that you have the correct information.

New ACA Logo Available for Use

The ACA has announced the availability of the new ACA logo. The logo was developed in an effort to look at the image of the ACA. Project VIII (Value, Image, Identity, and Influence), was launched several years ago to evaluate the position the ACA held in communities and formulate any adjustments needed to better poise the organization for the future. Extensive research was

evaluated to determine exactly where ACA was in the minds of our "consumers" – camps, members, peer professionals, members of the media, legislative bodies and, most important, parents and campers.

In the past year, the findings have been published and the new directions the ACA is taking have been presented.

ACA accredited camps can begin using the new logo. Information about the new logo is available on the ACA web site. Also, on the Web site, is the graphics manual regarding how to use the accredited camp logo with camp marketing materials.

Additional links contain new marketing language that will help camps consistently communicate the value of camp; outcomes, positive impacts; and key messages when working with the media.

After reviewing this information, if you have any questions, please contact the publications and graphics department at the national office at 765-342-8456.

Accredited Camps should be receiving a CD in the mail by the end of September. This CD will contain the same information you can find online, as well as the full Graphic Identity Standards and Trademark Usage Guidelines.

Camps may continue to use the "Camp Gives Kids a World Of Good" promotional slogan using the revised usage guidelines. These guidelines are different from those previously used. Camp Staff should review the new regulations before using this slogan.

Standards News from Chair Linda

As this article is being written, we are coming to the end of a busy summer visiting camps throughout the Great Rivers section. Twenty-six camps were visited this summer. All the volunteer visitors deserve a big pat on the back and a big THANK YOU for their efforts. In early June three of our visitors, Tim Dodds, Larry Graves, and Larry Williford, left us to take new

employment. We wish them well. Their departure caused some scrambling to replace them on the visit schedule but our visitor team stepped up to the challenge and filled the gaps. Cindy Findley had to bow out of her assigned visit and the visit to her own camp due to illness. Jim Cherry, our section exec and a visitor, had hip surgery this summer. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

If your camp was visited this summer, we thank you for your hard work getting ready for your visitors. I always enjoy getting to see other camps and I never hesitate to ask for copies of evaluations, program plans, or whatever else I think is really good. Fortunately, in our section everyone seems ready to share. In other sections with many private, for profit camps, there is fierce competition for campers and programs or new features of the camps are kept secret from each other as they are used to attract new campers.

Camps that are to be visited in 2005 can get a head start by attending the Basic Standards Course that will be offered at the fall conference. Visitors will also have the opportunity to update at the conference. Visitors are supposed to do this every three years. Both of these courses are also available on line.

Star Search 2004!

Now is the time to say thanks, wow or hooray to a volunteer, staff or organization in the ACA Great Rivers Section! Please look over the categories below and think of whom we need to celebrate or recognize. Please submit your nomination to Becky Godfrey by October 15 at PO Box 190, West Burlington, IA, 52655. or camplekeeta@yahoo.com. Let's make our Annual Meeting a real celebration of our Shining Stars! **Honor Award:** This award shall be regarded as the highest award the section can bestow upon it's members in recognition of long and distinguished service. No

more than one award will be given each year. The recipient shall:

1. Be the type of person whose contributions could inspire youth to live vigorously, courageously, and freely as citizens in a free society.
2. Be clearly outstanding in the camping field; in service, programming, teaching or administration.
3. Be highly regarded by his/her professional peers.
4. Currently, (or within the last year) be a member or retiree of the section and have held membership in the National Organization for at least 10 years.

Meritorious Service Award:

No more than two awards may be given each year. The recipient shall: 1. Currently, (or within the last year) be a member of the ACA Great Rivers Section. 2. Have demonstrated distinguished service to the Great Rivers Section directly, or represented the Great Rivers Section at the regional or national level.

Distinguished Service Award:

This award will be bestowed upon an individual who has given outstanding and extensive service to a particular camp for at least 10 years. A camp may nominate an individual for this honor to recognize them for lifetime contributions to the camp or camping movement. This award may be presented at the ACA Great Rivers Section Annual Meeting or at a special camp event.

Certificate of Appreciation/ Friend of Camping Award:

This award shall be bestowed upon an individual, organization, or business who may or may not be a member of ACA, but has contributed significantly to the camping/environmental movement through their efforts in allied or auxiliary fields. No more than two awards shall be given each year. The recipient shall have made important contributions to the camping/environmental movement from the vantage point of his/her profession. For example: media, legislation, education, architecture, land science, interest groups, service and others.

Great Rivers Section Calendar

This calendar is an effort to communicate trainings and workshops that are open to any staff. If you have trainings or workshops that are open to others, please contact Jim Cherry, at ACAGreatRiversExec@ACAcamp.s.org.

November 8-11: ACA Great Rivers Annual Conference. Y-Camp, Boone, Iowa. See the information in this newsletter. Call for a brochure if you have not received one.

Monday November 8: ACA Standards Course, Y-Camp, Boone, Iowa. 1-6 p.m. A required course for directors that are to be visited this summer. Also for those wanting to know more about the Accreditation process. To register, contact Linda DuBrul. This course is also available on line. Other courses will be offered later in the year. Tentative plans include a January course in Des Moines, and a March course in Kansas City. See the next newsletter for more information.

Wednesday Nov. 10: ACA Great Rivers Annual Meeting: 9-10:30 a.m. Y-Camp, Boone, Iowa. All camping professionals welcome. Come find out about our section, what we have accomplished in the last year, and plans for the coming year.

Wednesday Nov. 10: Visitor Update Course: 2:30-4:30 p.m., Y-Camp, Boone, Iowa. A required course for visitors every three years. This course is also available on line. Contact Linda DuBrul for more information.

Feb. 22-25: ACA National Conference, Orlando, Florida. Join fellow camp professionals as you "build your skills and transform your programs"! Join in the fun of Orlando! Register early and save! See the information at www.ACAcamps.org/conference

April 14-16: ACA Mid States Conference, near Chicago. This regional ACA conference will offer fantastic speakers and great learning sessions. Especially good for upper level management camp staff. Plan to bring your key staff and form a leadership team for the summer. See the information at www.acamidstates.org.

April 10-14: ACA Basic Camp Director Course, Camp Henry Horner, near Chicago. Course providing training in thirteen core areas of camp management for camp directors. See information at the education links at www.ACAcamps.org.

News from National ACA

ACA Employment Center
The ACA Employment is available for camps to post camp positions to be filled and to find camp staff. Go to the ACA web site, at www.ACAcamps.org/jobs. This is another way to find staff from a site that is known to attract camp professionals!

New Parent Magazine
The ACA is publishing a new magazine, **CAMP**. This is an effort to maximize parent understanding about the camp community. ACA will be mailing copies to Jim Cherry, our Section Executive. The Section Board will help to determine how these will be distributed.

CAMP magazine is planned to be an annual publication for marketing and public awareness of the camp community to be distributed to parents. ACA is also working on a parent web site relating to Camp. Watch for information in Camping Magazine, and emails from the National organization for more information. Or check out information on the ACA web site.

News from our Members

In August, Jim Cherry sent out an email asking Camp people to share their news and news of their camps in this newsletter. The following responded to the email! Thanks!

Nebraska 4-H Camp Staff Changes

Kelly Krambeck has resigned her position at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center to take a teaching position with Millard Public Schools in Omaha. She is teaching the 4th-5th grade Montessori program. She has been working hard to plan the Fall conference, but will need to be resigning her Section Board and Program position.

The new 4-H Camp Director, is Peyton "Buzz" Wheeler. Good luck to both Kelly and Buzz!

From the Iowa 4-H Center

Traci Stevens has gotten married as is now Traci Haselhuhn. Congratulations Traci! She still plans on working at the 4-H Center, and she and her husband will live at Camp. Her husband, Adam, is a computer software engineer.

On a camp note, the 4-H Center saw a rise in the number of campers and rental groups again this summer. "What has kept us up all night towards the end of the summer has been the road paving plans for Peach Avenue. The 2.2 mile stretch of gravel road that leads to camp finally got paved this past week, right around the Labor Day Weekend. Because of the summer and a wet week in August the paving kept getting moved back and interfered with our rental group schedule and getting our staff in and out of camp every day. We are soooo glad to almost have this "growing pain" behind us and get to enjoy the benefits of this new road!"

From Paul at Camp Wapsie in Iowa

I just wanted to share a fun new thing that is happening at YMCA Camp Wapsie. This summer we wrote a grant and added six hand held GPS units to our program. We found it a great to bridge the gap between Technology and the environment. In general we try to minimize technology in camp's program setting i.e. video games, movies and cell phones. But this proved a valuable tool to get kids excited about exploring the outdoors.

We used them for Scavenger hunts, tours to find activities and several camp games. The campers enjoyed them and in today's technology savvy world the kids pick up on their usage faster than most adults. If you have any questions contact Paul Denowski 319-435-2577 or pdenowski@crmetromca.org.

From the Wilderness Retreat and Development Center

Dennis Hisek writes that their camp, north of Kansas City "experienced a summer filled with new staff that rose to the challenge...". They tried some new camps, College Age camp, Science Camp, and Teddy Bear Camp. They were able to work with Graceland University to be a host site for nurses to do an internship and earn credit for their work. Dennis lost sleep over staffing for the kitchen. They were able to find a cook at the last minute, and utilized Workcampers to help this person in the kitchen. He also found that lifeguards are getting harder and harder to find.

Something in Clear Lake?

Two of our ACA camping friends living near Clear Lake, Iowa found themselves in the hospital this past summer. Jim Cherry, ACA Great Rivers Section Exec had a hip replacement in July. He says the hip is doing great! He is not even aware of having had the surgery and feels so much better, and pain free! Cindy Findley, Camp Tanglefoot director also had surgery in July. She missed

several weeks of camp, but she had good staff to fill in, and still kept up on what was happening at her camp. We wish them both continued good health.

Director Change at Albrecht Acres

Camp Albrecht Acres of the Midwest is a special needs camp located north of Dubuque, Iowa. Lonnie Fawver has completed his first summer as the Executive Director, and Daniel King has assumed the position of Camp Director.

Camp Director Wanted

The Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ is seeking a faithful and flexible person to engage in the ministry of hospitality as Director of our 127 acre Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center, located in eastern Iowa. This individual must be a team player and possess supervisory skills to effectively manage staff, grounds, maintenance and over all programming. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest and a resume or profile to the Rev. Lark J. Hapke, 600 42nd St., Des Moines IA 50312, by November 15.

For further information about Pilgrim Heights and the Iowa Conference, see the web site at www.ucciaconf.org

Wyman Center Position Available

The Wyman Center, based in the St. Louis area is accepting applications for the position of National Director. Please contact Tami Renner, Director of HR, at tami-r@wymancenter.org, or 636-938-5245, ext.396. for more information.

Directories Mailed

The ACA Great Rivers Section Camp Directory and Member directory will be mailed soon to Accredited Camps. If anyone else would like a copy, please email DD Gass at CampFireDM@aol.com. The Camp Directories are mailed to major media markets in April, to make them aware of accreditation

and the accredited camps in their area. The media is also referred to the ACA web site.