



## “The Current”

The American Camp Association  
Great Rivers Section Newsletter  
June 2008

### From the Section President, Robyn Ratcliff

Hello! Happy summer! Here are some hopes for your June:

- ☺ If you are at camp, I hope you take a moment to read our newsletter and find something useful in this brief document. Last minute training? Helpful ideas? Contact info for your section leadership?
- ☺ If you are not at camp, I hope you have time to get out and really visit camp this summer. Everyone needs a few mosquito bites, a face-to-face meeting with a box turtle, and a reminder of why we do the important work we do—campers growing and learning!
- ☺ If you are in the midst of staff training, I hope that whatever stage of group development your staff is in—it's going well. (Or as well as “storming” or “forming” can go!)
- ☺ If you have a minute, you might check out the blog that Peg Smith is keeping...go to <http://www.acacampsblog.org/>. It's a great opportunity to dialogue with our national leadership about ACA's 20/20 vision and exciting plans and ideas for the future!

Now I've gotta run—I've got an order to pick up at the restaurant supply store (squirt bottles and cutting boards), a PA system to load into my car, and an LCD projector to track down for Sunday's training! Best of luck to all of you! May your “to-do” lists shrink quickly!

### ACA Hotline Number

The American Camp Association has a hotline number that can be called if camp directors need to talk with someone in case of an emergency. Camps may face a situation that they need help in determining the proper course of action. ACA staff are assigned to answer the hotline calls, and then route the calls to the appropriate staff that can assist staff. This number is available 24 hours a day, year round.

**The Hotline number: 800-573-9019.**

### What's New at Your Camp?

A quick search of camp Web sites, uncovered the following camp news!

#### Iowa Camps

**Albrecht Acres:** The camp is holding a unique fundraising event in July, “Albrecht Acres Duck Race and Fireworks Spectacular. Find out more at [www.albrechtacres.org/events.html](http://www.albrechtacres.org/events.html).

**Camp Hope,** a therapeutic riding camp has a unique section on their Web site. It's “Meet the Horses.” They have categories which include active horses, retired horses and horses of the year. Go to [www.aspiretrp.org](http://www.aspiretrp.org).

**Camp Sunnyside** is holding a fundraising event this summer, the “Camp Sunnyside Regatta”, which is a paddleboat race around Lake Cheerio. See more at <http://ia.easterseals.com>.

**Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji** is conducting a Capital Campaign to build a Retreat Lodge with hotel-style rooms, meeting rooms and possibly a dining hall. Find out more at [www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org).

#### Nebraska Camps

**Girl Scout Camp Maha** is conducting a Capital Campaign to build year-round cabins and other camp enhancements. See the plans at [www.gpgirlscouts.org](http://www.gpgirlscouts.org).

**Camp Floyd Rogers** has a unique fundraising event. This summer they will hold their “16<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Poker Run” to send kids to camp. Find out more at [www.floydrogers.com](http://www.floydrogers.com).

Timberlake Ranch Camp had a Father-Son Paintball Retreat in April. The camp has three different paintball fields at their camp. Go to their Web site at [www.timberlake.org](http://www.timberlake.org).

**YMCA Camp Kitaki** describes two unique programs on their Web site – Jungleland Adventure Trail and Knight Quest Values Play and Adventure Trail. Find out about these programs at [www.ymcalincoln.org](http://www.ymcalincoln.org).

#### **Kansas**

**Camp Chippewa** will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this September. Look for more at [www.campchippewa.org](http://www.campchippewa.org).

**Camp Lakeside** is building a 1,600 square foot addition to the Lakeside Dining Hall. This will house a new kitchen, restrooms and staff dining area. The Web site says it is hoped that it will be ready this summer, [www.camplakeside.net](http://www.camplakeside.net).

**YMCA Camp Wood** is offering its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Skate Camp. They state on their Web site that they have the only residential skate camp in the Midwest. They have their own street course with 11 elements, a 3-foot beginner half pipe and a 7-foot half pipe. Find out more at [www.campwood.org](http://www.campwood.org).

#### **Missouri**

Actually, Dennis submitted this information, the **Wilderness Retreat and Development Center** had a Dedication Ceremony for their new pool on May 17. Bishop Schnase was present to help dedicate the new pool that has been a dream for so many years and is now a reality.

**Camp Winding River** is celebrating the completion of their new Equestrian Center. After a capital campaign, and a year-long building project, the girls this summer will be able to have riding lessons at the new center.

**Blue Mountain Methodist Camp** had some minimal flood damage this spring, but they did have damage to their Lodge in January due to a water line break. They are celebrating their new open-air Tabernacle which has recently been constructed. This provides opportunities for worship and recreational activities. See more at [www.bluemountaincamp.org](http://www.bluemountaincamp.org).

**Heartland Presbyterian Center** has a section on their Web site titled “Building the Future.” This section describes their Master Plan which will extend their vision of extending hospitality. Visit [www.heartlandcenter.org](http://www.heartlandcenter.org).

### **News from ACA National Office**

#### **New Membership System**

Discounted memberships, expanded services for students, and more! That's what ACA's new individual membership offers—with incredible values available to ACA visitors and camp summer staff.

#### **Better Value for Visitors:**

With ACA's new membership model going into effect July 1, professionals who are ACA camp visitors will see a substantial new discount to their membership fee. Visitors will receive a discounted rate of \$95, more than 50% off the individual membership dues of \$200. Compare this to the old Standards Visitor rate of \$150. That's a savings of \$55! To be eligible for the Visitor discount, you must be an individual trained and approved by ACA to conduct accreditation visits during the current year.

#### **More Value for Students --** For \$35, student members will now receive:

- FREE ACA national conference registration
- Full-year subscription to Camping Magazine
- Full-year subscription to The CampLine
- Access to all ACA Web resources
- Discounts on educational events, purchases at the ACA Bookstore, and more!

We encourage you to share this opportunity with your full-time student staff. Help make your staff aware of what ACA has to offer students. Consider doing the following:

- Download a flyer (PDF) to distribute to your student staff or post it in a prominent location.
- Forward the flyer in an e-mail to your student staff.
- Make your staff aware of ACA in whatever way might be appropriate.
- You can help staff discover ACA as a professional resource — one that can expand upon their excitement and enthusiasm for changing campers' lives.

Even though the new membership model and rates don't officially take effect until July 1, you can take advantage of the new rate now by calling Rachel Williams at 765-342-8456, ext. 509, or sending her an e-mail at [membership@ACAacamps.org](mailto:membership@ACAacamps.org). If you're curious about your renewal date, or have specific questions about how the change will impact your dues or services, be sure to contact Rachel at [membership@ACAacamps.org](mailto:membership@ACAacamps.org).

### **ACA Partners With *Weekly Reader***

Remember reading about current events in your own copy of *Weekly Reader* that your elementary school teacher handed out? *Weekly Reader* Custom Publishing (WRCP) has been a leader in providing educational materials in school settings for over one hundred years. Now they have partnered with ACA to provide similar materials to summer camps across America.

Starting this summer, camps will be sent free *Weekly Reader*-sponsored materials for camps to use. As with all WRCP programs, custom summer program materials will be fun, exciting, educational, and of interest to the youth market. They will include:

- Sporting Events
- Contests
- Character-Building,
- Leadership and Teamwork Exercises
- Rainy Day Activity Programs
- Water Safety
- Craft Materials
- Diaries
- Clothing
- And more . . . .

ACA is pleased to provide this free supplemental value-added benefit for camps. For more information regarding this program, contact Tim [tmillbern@ACAacamps.org](mailto:tmillbern@ACAacamps.org) or 765-349-3517). For more information about *Weekly Reader* Custom Publishing, visit [www.wrccp.com](http://www.wrccp.com) or [www.weeklyreaderresearch.com](http://www.weeklyreaderresearch.com).

### **Web-Based Courses on Camp Health and Safety Coming to ACA's e-Institute**

The American Camp Association will soon release a series of Web-based health and safety courses. Available mid-May 2008, through ACA's e-Institute, these courses are designed to teach camp directors and staff specific strategies for reducing camp illness and injuries. These courses make an excellent addition to camp staff orientation and training. Courses can be purchased individually or in a package. Courses are free to camps participating in the Healthy Camp Study. The following courses will be available:

#### Reducing the Spread of Communicable Diseases in Camp: Why We Should Do It In Our Sleeves

Did you know that campers are twice as likely to become ill at camp as they are to get injured? You owe it to your campers and staff to stop the spread of germs! This course teaches camp professionals how to reduce the spread of communicable diseases like the common cold. In the end, you'll have a healthier camp community. Specific activities that camp directors can include in staff orientation and training are included in the course.

#### Footloose: Minimizing Slips and Falls at Camp

When you think about injury prevention, do you think about the terrain at your camp and the types of shoes your campers and staff are wearing? If not, then you should think again. Educating your campers and staff about appropriate footwear, supported by policies and procedures, is an important way that you can reduce slips and falls at your camp while also minimizing the likelihood of foot, ankle, and toe injuries. This course teaches camp directors and staff about choosing proper footwear for camp activities—a must for all camps.

#### Knife Safety: Reducing Sharp Object Injuries at Camp

One of the most common causes of staff injuries in camps is self-inflicted knife injuries to the hand or finger. But knives and other sharp objects are a part of camp, with important uses in food service, arts and crafts, camp maintenance, and other areas. This course is designed to teach camp staff how to properly use and store knives to reduce the likelihood of a hand or finger injury. Want to reduce "lost-time" incidents in your camp, then this course can help.

Other Web courses available through ACA's E-Institute include *Designing Quality Youth Programs* and *Camp Is For the Camper*. For a course catalog, visit: [www.ACAacamps.org/einstitute/](http://www.ACAacamps.org/einstitute/).

## Camps to receive NEW ACA Accredited-Camp sign!

Over the next three years all ACA-Accredited camps will be receiving a new, more durable Accredited- Camp Sign. The NEW sign is made of metal, is twelve inches tall and eighteen inches long and is suitable for mounting on a sign post, a building, etc. The first mailing includes all camps newly accredited or re-accredited in 2007 and was mailed in May. Camps that are newly accredited or re-accredited in 2008 or 2009 will receive their signs in late 2008 and 2009 respectively.

If you would like to purchase either an additional sign or one prior to when your NEW sign is shipped, the cost is \$25/sign which includes shipping. Visit [www.acacamps.org/accreditation/sign\\_request.php](http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/sign_request.php) or call the American Camp Association at 765-342-8456.

## Standards News—Remember to Update your Standards Book

All member camps in the Great Rivers ACA section were mailed new standards notebooks in the Fall of 2006. There have been updates and revisions to the original standards notebooks. The national ACA website has all the revisions in PDF format to download. You should download the file and place these pages in your standards notebook. The revised standards are what you will be scored on at your visit. Go to [www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf](http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf).

## Great Rivers Section and Other Staff Training Events

Does your camp offer a training that other camp staff could attend? Are you looking for an Archery course or other trainings? Jim Cherry, ACA Great Rivers Section Executive, collects information about camp staff trainings that are open to other camps. He has placed the information on the ACA web site. Go to [www.acagreatrivers.org/training.php](http://www.acagreatrivers.org/training.php) to see what has been collected. If you have other trainings to share, please email them to Jim Cherry, [executive@acagreatrivers.org](mailto:executive@acagreatrivers.org).

## ACA Great Rivers Section 2008 Fall Conference

Plans are already underway for the 2008 ACA Great Rivers Fall Conference, November 11-13, 2008 at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center near Indianola, Iowa. The Great Rivers section has decided to offer the Fall Conference at the same location two years in a row. The theme for the conference is "Building Something Great Together". The Tuesday Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Jim Cain, from Teamwork & Teamplay, with a session titled, "The Value of Play". You can read more about Jim Cain at his Web site, [www.teamworkandteamplay.com](http://www.teamworkandteamplay.com). On Wednesday there will be a variety of sessions including a special focus on food service track with a day-only package including access to the expanded vendor show, lunch, and workshops.

Something new this year, is the opportunity to participate in a Pre-Conference session with Dr. Jim Cain presenting the interactive session, "Exploring Leadership Actively" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$75 per person if registered by 10/13/08. Visit the Great Rivers section Web site at [www.acagreatrivers.org](http://www.acagreatrivers.org) for the following conference details: registration form, event schedule, pre-conference information, vendors and workshop session proposals. If you have questions, please contact our section's Education Chair, Traci Haselhuhn, at 515-795-3338 or [tracidh@iastate.edu](mailto:tracidh@iastate.edu).

## Online Training Available from National ACA

*The Camp Is for the Camper Online Training, Second Edition* gives staff an educational forum for considering their roles and responsibilities. The program's four interactive modules address counselor responsibilities as role models, stress reduction while working at camp, and demographics of today's campers and behavior management techniques. The program content draws from the popular booklet, *Camp Is for the Camper*. Use of this course for staff training has several advantages:

- Staff members can complete the course prior to their arrival at camp, so they are ready to move onto the next steps! Or use it as inservice training during the middle of camp.
- Having staff members participate in this course helps meet part of ACA Standard HR-11 (Pre-Camp Training). This course specifically addresses the following parts of HR-11:
  - Developmental needs of campers to be served and the resulting differences for program, structure, and behavior management; and
  - Behavior management and camper supervision techniques to create a physically and emotionally safe environment.

Use of this course is a great way to "jump start" your staff training, helping your staff members begin to focus on their summer job and experience. Cost of the *Camp Is for the Camper Online Training* is just \$39! This allows as

many of your staff members to access this course as you wish! This course, along with others currently available, can be accessed at: [www.ACAcamps.org/einstitute/](http://www.ACAcamps.org/einstitute/). Visit this site often as more courses will be added by mid-May that will be of benefit to camps and their staff!

### **Is "Kid-sickness" the new "Homesickness"?**

We've all seen it before! The child is not homesick, but the parent misses the child. The ACA national office has a lot of tips in Parent section of the ACA web site. You can refer parents to this valuable information. And, you can use the information to help train staff in how to work with parents.

### **ACA Great Rivers Section Board Roster 2008**

If you have questions about the ACA Great Rivers Section, contact Jim Cherry or one of the board members listed below.

#### **Section Executive:**

Rev. Jim Cherry, 2335 300<sup>th</sup> St., Ventura, IA 50482  
Voice Mail: 888-748-3783, Home: 641-927-4428  
Email: [executive@acagreatrivers.org](mailto:executive@acagreatrivers.org) or [jjcherry@peconet.net](mailto:jjcherry@peconet.net)

#### **President:**

Robyn Ratcliff, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, 8383 Blue Parkway Dr., Kansas City, MO 64133  
Phone: 816-358-8755, ext. 3068 E-mail: [robynratcliff@girlscoutsksmo.org](mailto:robynratcliff@girlscoutsksmo.org)

#### **Vice President Development:**

Lee Walz, United Methodist Camps, 4800 Santana Circle, Columbia, MO 65203  
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#### **Vice President Program, Nominating and Awards:**

Lisa Nichols, Kansas City MO, Parks and Rec. 4600 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St, Kansas City, MO 64130  
Phone: 816-513-7532 E-mail: [lisa\\_nichols@kcmo.org](mailto:lisa_nichols@kcmo.org)

#### **Treasurer:**

Chris Klingenberg, YMCA Camp Kitaki, 6000 Cornhusker Way, Lincoln, NE 68507  
Phone: 402-434-9225 E-mail: [CKlingenberg@ymcalincoln.org](mailto:CKlingenberg@ymcalincoln.org)

#### **Secretary:**

Anne Snyder, YMCA Camp Wood, RR 1, Box 78, Elmdale, KS 66850  
Phone: 620-273-8641 E-mail: [ymca@campwood.org](mailto:ymca@campwood.org)

#### **Standards Chair:**

Linda DuBrul, Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails Council, 210 S. Ingram Mill Rd., Springfield, MO 65802  
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#### **Education Chair:**

Traci Haselhuhn, Iowa 4-H Center, 1991 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA 50156  
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#### **Legislation Chair:**

#### **Public Relations Chair:**

DD Gass, Camp Fire USA, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1900, Kansas City, MO 64106  
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#### **Membership Chair:**

Tom Neppel, Neppel Landscape Architecture, PO Box 906, Ames, IA 50010  
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**Complaints Resolution Chair:**

Dave Sherry, Des Moines YMCA Camp, 1192 166<sup>th</sup> Dr., Boone, IA 50036  
Phone: 515-432-7558 E-mail: [david.sherry@dmymca.org](mailto:david.sherry@dmymca.org)

**Board Member-At-Large:**

Lynn Steinkamp, Girl Scouts of the Great Plains Council, 2121 S. 44<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha, NE 68105  
Phone 402-558-8189 ext. 215 E-Mail: [lsteinkamp@gpgirlscouts.org](mailto:lsteinkamp@gpgirlscouts.org).

**Nominating Chair:**

Becky Godfrey, Burlington, Iowa 52655  
Phone: 319-753-6209 E-mail: [yerfdogs@yahoo.com](mailto:yerfdogs@yahoo.com).

**Have a Fun and Safe Summer!!**

