

November 2008



The Current ACA Great Rivers Newsletter

2008 Great Rivers ACA Fall Conference

Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center

Indianola, Iowa

November 11-13, 2008

Register at www.acagreatrivers.org/conference



Pre-Conference Workshop—Monday, November 10 with Jim Cain “Exploring Leadership Actively”

Join author and teambuilding guru Dr. Jim Cain for a full day of exploring leadership actively. Based upon his recently completed leadership curriculum for youth, Dr. Cain will share dozens of valuable techniques for exploring leadership topics, such as communication, creative problem solving, character, appreciating diversity and many, many more. In addition to a full day of activities and training, each participant will take home a copy of one of Jim's outstanding books or a Teambuilding/Leadership prop of your choice!

Participants: Youth development staff, teachers, camp professionals: anyone is welcome!

Time: Check-in 9:30-10:00 AM, Pre-Conference 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., lunch at noon

Location: Wesley Chapel in the main lodge at Wesley Woods

Cost: \$85 per person. Please pre-register.

“Building Something Great Together”

2008 Great Rivers ACA Section Fall Conference

Tuesday-Thursday, November 11-13, 2008

Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center, Indianola, Iowa



Plan now to discover some **Great Resources** this fall – It's your opportunity to gather with other camp professionals, hear the latest camp information, share some of your own great ideas, and watch the excitement build as you learn new things to take back to your program! Keynote presenters are Dr. Jim Cain and Kathy Trotter. See the information on the Web site at www.acagreatrivers.org for more information. Register now!

Join over 70 camp and youth professionals from local camps and youth programs throughout the Midwest as we gather for a time of education, networking and renewal at the ACA Great Rivers Conference. There is truly something for everyone -- administrators, program staff and directors in this year's educational line-up. Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center is located southwest of Indianola, Iowa near Lake Aquabi. To print a map, go to: <http://www.wesleywoodsiowa.org/?p=directions.asp>

Address: 10896 Nixon Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125 **Phone:** 515-961-4523 ext. 101, 1-866-684-7753 **Web-site:** <http://www.wesleywoodsiowa.org/>

From Robyn Ratcliff, the ACA Great Rivers Section President

It's certainly fall in Kansas City. I just spent 20 minutes picking up sticks in my yard...lots of sticks. It's like the trees have decided to drop sticks this year in lieu of leaves. Okay, truth be told, there are leaves out there, too, but tonight I started with the sticks. Tomorrow, I'll have to get out the rake. Fall brings us many tasks, but also many delights. One of the things I look forward to each fall is the ACA Great Rivers conference. This will be my ninth year in a row attending this event. You'll find information here and on our website at www.acagreatrivers.org about the great speakers, workshops, networking and enrichment activities we have in store. All fabulous. But—these are not the only reasons why I'm excited about going to Indianola, IA in a few weeks.



Robyn as a camper, just a few years ago!

Here are three GREAT reasons YOU need to be at this conference:

1. **You do not work in outer space.** Sometimes it may feel like it! So many of us work for agencies and organizations who see “camp” as one of *many* important programs. (Often an expensive and time consuming program in a world of limited resources.) Our co-workers are ministry staff or membership staff who don't really understand the whole “camp thing.” At the ACA GR conference—you get to learn from and spend time with other camping professionals, people who understand your challenges and your victories! It's refreshing and empowering to realize you are an important part of the greater camp community.
2. **The dining hall is a beautiful concept.** Just think...two and a half days where all of your meals are cooked and served by someone else! You don't have to think about what's for dinner...just go to the dining hall and help yourself. It's a little piece of summer in the middle of November. (It helps that the food at Wesley Woods is above average!) You'll get to share your table with the experienced pros and the fresh young faces in our field; you will learn valuable lessons from both. Bring a problem to dinner—you'll have seven solutions before you've finished your apple pie.
3. **Your career is important to you—and us!** Personally, I work for an organization that cut all of our professional development budgets to \$0.00 three years ago. I manage to squeeze the minimal fee for this conference out of my budget anyway—for me and for my staff. During these tough times, ACA has provided me with countless opportunities when my employer just couldn't swing it. I've had amazing leadership, educational and networking opportunities, locally and nationally, because I am committed to ACA. I've been a conference presenter, a standards instructor, a secretary, a VP, and now a board president—my résumé owes a great deal to ACA Great Rivers!

So—I WILL see you in Nov. Get your registration form submitted today. If you need 2, 4, or 6 weeks to get a check cut—don't sweat it! Just get registered, and we'll work out the finances by the end of the calendar year. I think the last time Jim Cain was with us was my favorite conference yet—and those of you who know me will know it's quite a stretch for me to say that the building community through music and dance presentation was my very favorite. Please join us. We've got 50 registrations—I'd like to see 80. Great times await!

Blog With Peg Smith

What's new at ACA from the CEO's point of view? What are Peg's thoughts on the latest ACA National Board Meeting or the concepts behind ACA's 20/20 Vision? Find that and more on ACA's new blog site, www.ACACampsblog.org. Peg updates the blog frequently, so be sure to visit often for a fresh take on important issues facing ACA, Peg's philosophies, or maybe a brief review of the latest best seller on visionary management she's been reading.

ACA Joins the "No Child Left Inside Coalition"

As part of the effort to promote the movement to reconnect children and nature, ACA has joined the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Coalition, a broad-based organization made up of more than six hundred member groups from across the United States. The Coalition's membership includes environmental, educational, business, public health, outdoor recreation, and conservation groups. With tens of millions of members represented, the NCLI Coalition speaks for a diverse group of Americans who believe young people should receive a strong education about their natural world. The popular, bipartisan bill, the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008, passed in the House of Representatives on September 18. The Act authorizes major new funding for states to provide high-quality, environmental instruction. Funds support outdoor learning activities both at school and in non-formal environmental education centers, teacher training, and the creation of state environmental literacy plans.



Camping Magazine Goes Digital

Camping Magazine is now on your computer anytime you want it! The digital *Camping Magazine* has the same great content, images, and advertisements, plus much more . . . You're only a click away from: viewing interactive features; sharing articles with friends or staff; printing and e-mailing articles (or the entire magazine); sending an e-mail to the editor or any of the magazine staff; interactive advertisements – click to go right to an advertiser's Web site; and live Web sites and e-mails.

NRPA Forges Education Alliance with ACA

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has announced a new relationship with the American Camp Association (ACA) leading to the development of a broad range of online courses through NRPA's new online learning system and the sale of ACA publications through the new NRPA Online Store. Online courses will be developed as part of a joint effort between NRPA and ACA to address the growing need for training in areas relating to youth development, camping, recreation, and workforce development. Curricula will be provided by ACA, while NRPA will facilitate the design and development of the online delivery system.



Both organizations have also committed to exploring opportunities for working together on live, in-person learning events. The new online learning system and online store being developed by NRPA will be officially unveiled at a special event taking place on October 16 in conjunction with the 2008 NRPA Congress and Exposition in Baltimore. For more information about NRPA, visit www.nrpa.org.

Operation Purple® Summer Camp Proposals Now Being Accepted

With the successful completion of the 2008 *Operation Purple®* Summer Camp program, the National Military Family Association (NMFA) is now accepting host camp applications for the 2009 camp season! *Operation Purple®* camps offer children of service members a free week of summer camp. The goal is to help military children of various ages learn coping skills associated with deployment-related stress, provide a support network of peers, and most of all, have fun. *Operation Purple®* imparts to these young heroes the message that "Kids Serve Too." Since *Operation Purple®* began in 2004, NMFA has sent more than 20,000 military children to an exciting week of camp. To obtain a copy of the application to host an *Operation Purple®*, visit the program's Web site, www.operationpurple.org. All interested applicants are encouraged to review the documents, which provide vital information about the curriculum and expectations for *Operation Purple®* camps. For more information, please contact Julie Riggs. The deadline for receipt of applications is November 1. Proposals can be e-mailed to Julie.riggs@nmfa.org, and hard copies can be mailed to The National Military Family Association, Attn: Julie Riggs, 2500 North Van Dorn Street, Suite 102, Alexandria, VA 22302. Selected camps will be notified by December 15



Standards Trainings for 2008-2009

The first standards training for 2009 visits will take place at the Great Rivers fall conference on November 10 at Wesley Woods in Indianola, Iowa. There will be three additional sessions:

Standards Training, Des Moines, IA, January 12, 2009

Camp Fire USA Service Center, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Standards Training, Lincoln, NE, February 23, 2009

First Lutheran Church, Lincoln, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Standards Training, Kansas City, MO, March 9, 2009

Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri office, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Be sure to bring your standards book with you to the training; we only have a limited number of extra books. Be sure to printout the updates from the ACA website before you come to training. These can be found at http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations_may07_jan08.pdf

Camps to be Visited in 2009

If your camp was last visited in 2006, you are due for a visit next summer. You should have received a standards notebook in the mail from the publisher in the fall of 2006. If you are not sure when you were last visited, email Linda Du Brul, Standards Chair at n0imy@arrl.net. (The second character is a zero). Your camp will need to do three things in 2009—pay your service fees, sign your annual statement of compliance, and attend a standards training (see the dates above). Watch your camp email for a notification letter. Be sure your contact information is up to date. You can do this online at www.ACAcamps.org. Use this link <http://www.acacamps.org/login/logindetails.php>. You will need to know your ACA member number and password.

Visitor Training

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer camp visitor? In January of 2008 eight new visitors attended training at YMCA Camp Wood. A ninth volunteers made it to visitor training in another section. All of these volunteers were out and about this summer visiting camps in our four states. If you are interested in joining the ranks of visitors let us know. We will need to have a minimum of six to hold the training. Contact Linda Du Brul, Standards Chair for more information and an associate visitor application. Her contact information is phone 417-535-6691 (home). Email: n0imy@arrl.net. (the second character is a zero.)

ACA Mid States Conference—Save The Date—March 26-28th, 2009

Mid States is a fabulous opportunity to connect with camping professionals, train your staff, shop for deals, and fill your “bag of tricks”. The 2009 theme is *Learn Together, Grow Together: Sowing the Seed of Sustainability*. The conference will provide thought provoking presenters and wonderful opportunities to connect with peers! The 2009 Conference Schedule can be found at www.acamidstates.org. Call for Presenter forms are available at the **Mid States Camping Conference website**. This unique conference welcomes approximately 1200 attendees and offers more than 170 educational opportunities. Please consider presenting, or pass the Call for Presenter form onto someone that would be a good addition to our program. While educational sessions that support our theme are encouraged; quality educational sessions are needed for a variety of staff—from cabin counselor to directors, program staff, nurses and board members.



ACA National Conference—February 17-20, 2009

The Power of the Experience is the theme for the 2009 ACA Conference in Orlando. Through powerful keynote addresses and inspiring sessions, participants will learn more about the camp profession. Sessions will include information on youth development and behavior; staff training and leadership; business and operations; emerging issues; tools and strategies; innovative programming and activities. Find out more at www.acacamps.org.

News of Our Members

Traci and Adam Haselhuhn would like to announce the arrival of a healthy baby boy, Tyler Earvin Haselhuhn. Tyler was born at 8:38 am on October 6th. He weighed 8 lbs 10 oz, and was 21 inches long. There were no complications, and Mom and baby are doing great! Traci works with the Iowa 4-H Camp and Conference Center, is on the Great Rivers Board, and is the chair of the Education Committee. Congratulations Traci!



Gretchen Ahrens is headed south! She has taken the position of Equine Specialist with Calvin Center, a Presbyterian camp and retreat center 45 minutes south of downtown Atlanta, Georgia. Gretchen will be working with the summer horse program, therapeutic riding, retreats and trail rides as well as other Calvin Center programs. Calvin Center is an ACA accredited camp and Gretchen plans to connect with the Section and continue to serve as a visitor. Gretchen starts her new position November 3. And yes, she is moving her two horses to Georgia, too. You can reach her at her new e-mail address gretchenahrens@calvincenter.org. Thanks to Gretchen for all her work at Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Carol Joy Holling Camp, Tomah Shinga and Sullivan Hills.

New position. New Company. Same strong customer service. Kent Van Vark, formerly of Goalsetter Systems has moved on and accepted a sales position with C.C. Creations, one of the country's largest Screen Printing & Embroidered apparel companies in the market. Many of you know Kent from his years of selling and promoting Goalsetter basketball goals and know that Kent has a strong belief in excellent customer service. Kent will be covering most of the ACA Great Rivers territory along with other national markets that he has been involved with for many years.

Great Rivers Section Sponsors Three Students

Three students applied for a position at the ACA Student Camp Leadership Academy (SCLA). The Great Rivers section board voted to support all three applicants to attend the academy. The SCLA is a weekend retreat that brings together students, camp professionals, national ACA staff and leadership to explore, learn, and understand what the camp professional of the future must be and the leadership opportunities within the ACA structure at the local and National levels to impact the development of youth and others. This Fall the SCLA is Nov. 7-9 at Camp White Eagle in Illinois. After successful completion of the SCLA experience, all students receive an ACA SCLA certificate.

Mary Ennis Retires After Fifty-Three Years of Service to ACA

Mary Ennis has worked for the ACA National Office for 53 years. During that time, she has supported the work of five executive directors, five interim executive directors, and twenty-four national presidents. She has seen the organization grow from a technically bankrupt association to one with nearly eight thousand members. She has endured more board meetings than anyone can imagine. Mary will enjoy her retirement by traveling, gardening, and helping ACA as a volunteer prepare the Association for its 100th anniversary. Who better to help ACA organize historical documents and help tell the ACA story? Please share your memories and messages—your appreciation and celebration—with Mary by writing her in care of the ACA National Office, 5000 State Rd 67 N., Martinsville, IN 46151. They will forward all letters to her.



Mary Ennis receives the Mary Ennis Staff Award from Suz Welch at the 2006 ACA National Conference.

ACA Great Rivers Section Board

ACA Great Rivers Section Web Site:
www.acagreatrivers.org

Section Executive: Rev. Jim Cherry:
E-mail: executive@acagreatrivers.org
Telephone: 641-927-4428

President: Robyn Ratcliff, Girl Scouts
E-mail: robynratclif@girlscoutsksmo.org

Vice President of Development: H. Lee Walz, United Methodist
E-mail: lwalz@moumethodist.org

Vice President of Program: Lisa Nichols, KC Parks and Rec
E-mail: lisa_nichols@kcmo.org

Secretary: Anne Snyder, YMCA
E-mail: aws1155@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Chris Klingenberg, YMCA
E-mail: cklingenberg@ymcalincoln.org

Standards Chair: Linda DuBrul, retired
E-mail: n0imy@arri.net

Education Chair: Traci Haselhuhn, Iowa 4-H Camp
E-mail: tracidh@iastate.edu

Membership Chair: Tom Neppi
E-mail: tom@nepplandscapearchitecture.com

Legislation: Brad North
E-mail: director@campgalileemo.org

Complaint Resolution: David Sherry, YMCA
E-mail: david.sherry@dmymca.org

Public Relations: DD Gass, Camp Fire USA
E-mail: dd.gass@campfireusa.org

Member At Large: Lynn Steinkamp
E-mail: lsteinkamp@girlscoutsnebraska.org

Nominating: Becky Godfrey
E-mail: yerfdogs@yahoo.com

Update Your ACA Information!

When was the last time you checked to see if ACA's database has correct information about your contact information or the correct information for your camp? Did you know that you can go into your database and make corrections?

The webpage for doing this is www.acacamps.org/login/logindetails.php You will find instructions for how to access your personal information. It is very important that this information is kept up-to-date. More and more communication is dependent upon having an accurate email address.

For your camp it is important to have the correct contact person listed so that critical communications regarding standards and accreditation do not go astray. Take a couple of minutes today to check the accuracy of your database information.

Share Your Training Dates

If you are planning training events that could be attended by other camp professionals, please send your information to our Section Executive, Jim Cherry. Jim sends out regular communications with members and the information will also appear in future newsletters. E-mail your information to executive@acagreatrivers.org.

