

Badger Tracks

American Camp Association Wisconsin Section

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ACA Wisconsin Section Welcomes New Executive

Kim S. Rathsack has accepted the position of Section Executive effective October 1. Kim has been on the Section Board for the past several years, and has been our Program/Education chair most of that time. She is presently the Resident Camp Director/Program Specialist for the Girl Scouts of Black Hawk Council—Camp Blackhawk. Kim has also been very active with the Mid-States Conference, most recently as the Program Committee Chair.

Currently, she can be reached at 3624 Aschen Puttel Drive, Appleton, WI 54915, 715-882-2641, kashafer@chorus.net.

A Quick Note from Kate's Corner

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as ACA Wisconsin, Section Executive. I treasure the relationships I have developed and am grateful for the knowledge I have gained. **Kate**

Don't Miss the Fall Workshop!!!!

~~It's only a couple of weeks away!~~ You should have recently received a brochure describing it.

This high quality workshop includes: Visits to 5 accredited camps. You'll be introduced to the camps, and then tour the facilities to learn what is unique and very well done in each of the programs.

Bus transportation is provided between each of the facilities. While you're on the bus you will learn about camps, have mini-educational opportunities and network with other camp professionals.

An evening discussion with **Gary Forster**, ACA National Board member and Camp Specialist from the YMCA of the USA, who will lead us as we consider ramifications of long range trends in camping.

Costs for transportation, in a luxury coach, is underwritten by the section. Your cost of \$85 per person includes cost of lodging in a dorm and four meals. Semi-private accommodations are available at an additional cost of \$30.

For more information, or to register, please email acawisconsin@charter.net or call 608-663-0051.

Electronic Tidbits

From **Jerry Carman**, Data Manager

It's that time of year again...please check last year's roster for any corrections you'd like made. Let me know of any updates no later than October 15.

If you are pretty new, and your information did not appear, please send the following info: Name, camp name, affiliation, winter address, summer address, office phone and fax, camp phone and fax, e-mail.

If your camp is a new camp within the past year, please indicate it's city and state.

New rosters are distributed at the Annual Meeting in November.

It's also time for annual reports from the following: Partnership and Collaborations, Section President, Membership, Standards, Section Exec, Nominating Committee, Awards, Membership Services, Complaint Resolution, Treasurer, Camp For Kids, and Job Fairs. Deadline, also October 15. Please check last year's roster for layout format. Any other committees that have been added should send a report on last year's activities.

Finally, when you receive notices, etc., from the office, please respond to the Exec, not me. When I receive your response, it will be delayed until I can forward it to the office. We hope the Badger Track Bulletins are helpful.

Thanks!

Our Website

As you may know, the website is up and running.

Badger Tracks now appears on our website, www.acawisconsin.org. Remember, if you'd prefer receive a hard copy, let **Kim** know. Please include your email address, phone number, and postal address.

Georgi Starz Update

You've no doubt learned that **Georgi**, director of Camp Nicolet, was in a serious accident. She sustained multiple fractures in addition to a laceration to her liver. She's having to do PT and OT, but is expected to make a full recovery. **Jeremy** will be at camp until Georgi is back on her feet.

The following is a note from Georgi to the Section Board, dated September 21.

I just wanted to try out my one-handed keying skills and say thank you so very much for your care package and get well wishes which arrived yesterday. It made my day!

I got home a few days ago after 1 week in the hospital and 2 weeks in rehab—they worked me hard, but it's paying off and I'm feeling a bit stronger every day. I hope to be able to see you all once again soon—maybe by the annual meeting?

She can be reached through the camp's email address, campnico@newnorth.net.

CAMP: A Resource for Families

This is ACA's annual magazine which introduces parents to the breadth of the camp experience.

Here's your opportunity to reach greater numbers of families whose paths are leading to camp! Copies of CAMP are available at 50 cents each (no charge for shipping and handling). This special rate is for ACA-accredited camps and members only.

Orders will cost \$1 per copy and will be shipped from the ACA warehouse.

Call 765-342-8456, ext. 600, or download an order form (pdf) and fax it to 765-349-6357.

Horsemanship Safety Association Moves

The Horsemanship Safety Association has relocated to Wisconsin. It is now located at Hoofbeat Ridge. The new phone number is 608-767-2593.

Riding Helmets vs. Bike Helmets

By **Ted Marthe**

Troxel Adjustable Helmet

One of the challenges riding facilities face is making sure each rider is outfitted with a properly fitted helmet. Troxel's "New Spirit" riding helmet has a dial on the back harness that allows you to adjust the helmet size. Hoofbeat Ridge has been using these helmets in the riding school and have found them to be very durable and much easier to properly fit riders.

Bike Helmet

There have been many questions regarding the use of different types of helmets for riding programs. Some riding programs have used bike, climbing and rafting helmets for their riders. Is this a safe practice?

There are many problems with using helmets that are not designed for equine sports. The type of impact and the height of the fall are taken into consideration when riding helmets are designed and approved. Non-riding helmets have several design characteristics which make them unsafe for riding.

#1 *Area of coverage:* Most bike helmets do not cover the head completely. A bike helmet for example does a poor job of covering the lower back half of the head.

#2. *Impact:* Riding helmets have a much higher impact standard than other types of helmets. In a fall or a blow to the head, helmets are designed to spread out the area of impact. The type and strength of the inner material the helmet is made out of is much different for a bicycle helmet as opposed to a riding helmet.

#3. *Retention system:* The type of harness, the design and how it is attached to the helmet is much different in

approved riding helmets as opposed to non-riding helmets. Again, the height of the fall can have an impact on whether the harness system will stay intact or be torn away from the helmet.

Bike helmets, again, are simply not designed to withstand the force that a rider may encounter while falling off a horse. Helmet companies have issued warnings that the helmets need to be used only for the sport activity for which they are designed.

National Conference Will Be in Our own Backyard!!

February 7-10, 2006

Partnering with Parents—Starting the Conversation

Examine what your camp looks like through the eyes of parents. This theme connects us as professionals to the communities we serve.

Combine opportunities to learn, collaborate, and reconnect. Nationally recognized experts provide up-to-the minute education in a variety of formats. In addition to sessions, the National Conference serves as a gathering place for related groups including ACA local offices, regions, Kindred Groups, Affiliates, Alumni Groups, and others. Issues vital to the profession and camp movement are thoughtfully debated through governance meetings known as the Council of Delegates. An extensive exhibit hall provides much needed access to the professionals, products, and services necessary for our work.

For more information, please go to www.acacamps.org/conference. Volunteers are asked to contact Cathy Scheder at cscheder@acacamps.org, or call 765-3423-8456, ext. 304.

Environmental Stewardship

ACA has partnered with Leave No Trace for Outdoor Ethics to promote environmental stewardship practices in camp.

As you remember, in the 60s, ACA established the Camp crafters program. In 1991, Camp crafters got a facelift and name change. That's when the Outdoor Living Skills (OLS) program was initiated. That program was updated in 2000.

And now, it's time for a new and really wonderful change. As of August 31, 2005, ACA phased out OLS and incorporated the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics programs.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting

and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. The program builds awareness, appreciation, and respect. To find the seven Leave No Trace Principles, please go to www.int.org/programs/int7/index.html.

Cathy Palmer Accepts New Role

Cathy has been hired as the Director of Summer Programs at the Conserve School in Land O' Lakes. She will be responsible for designing from scratch their summer programs which will be academic and camp combined. Conserve is a private boarding high school that focuses on the environment. She can be reached at Cathy Palmer #81, Conserve School, 5400 N. Black Oak Lake Road, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540 or Cathy.Palmer@conserve-school.org.

Sail Boats to a Good Home

Camp Manito-wish YMCA is offering these:

M-20 Scow-Mast, Boom, Main Sail, Jib, Rudder/Tiller, Trailer...FREE

Lighting-Mast, Boom, Main Sail, Jib, Rudder/Tiller, Trailer...FREE

(2) M-16 Scow-Mast, Boom, Main Sail, Jib, Rudder/Tiller, Trailer...one in good condition, \$500, one FREE

MC Scow-Mast, Boom, Main Sail, Rudder/Tiller, Trailer...FREE

"Hobie One"-Mast, Boom, Rudder/Tiller, Main Sail, Jim (Roller Furling), Trailer...\$1000

Laser (Blue)-Mast, Boom, Sail, Dagger Board, Rudder/Tiller...\$300

Laser (Red)-Mast, Boom, Sail, Dagger Board, Rudder/Tiller...\$300

All "free" boats do need general maintenance, but are sailable. Contact: **Drew Richmond**, Summer Program Director, at drew.richmond@manito-wish.org or call 715-385-7805

THE ACA CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBER HAS BEEN CHANGED.

The new ACA Crisis Hotline is 800-573-9019

The ACA Crisis Hotline is available as a free, year-round service to all ACA camps. The hotline staff will be paged and will return your call as soon as possible. The hotline is not a medical or legal advice hotline, but it does serve as a "listening ear" to help you talk through your crisis. The hotline staff can help you think of issues and questions and identify other resources that can assist you.

Annual Meeting Date

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Section of the American Camp Association will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, WI. The meeting, held Thursday, November 10, will feature educational opportunities about health care at camp.

From Our Prez

By **Cliff Clauer**

It is hard to believe another summer has come and gone. With all the heat we had this summer, it is hard to believe we could feel the nip of winter in the air already. The summer of 2005 was a challenge for so many Directors. The best way they have described their summer to me was—"I did not expect that." From staff getting Lyme Disease in areas where there has not been reported cases, to staff just leaving camp with no notice. I guess what keeps us all going during these challenging times is seeing the thousands of smiling faces, warm hearts, and caring people we reach each season.

This past week I was blessed to be able to go to Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi with a semi of relief items for the victims of hurricane Katrina. This trip really helped remind me how fragile life is and how important family and friends are. No photograph or media report can describe the total destruction of this area. Towns completely wiped out, people living for three weeks plus, under broken carports, surviving on what food they could find in the mud. The smell of sewage, seawater, and death, cannot be explained. If you have an opportunity to help these people, I suggest you do whatever you can even if it hurts a little, because it hurts them a lot more if you don't. Thank you to all the camps who dug through their lost and found boxes and storerooms to help fill our semi trailer. Believe me, the things you gave were greatly appreciated. I personally handed many of the items to adults and children. The thanks and hugs received were more than one could handle.

As you read through this *Badger Tracks* edition, pay special attention to the fall bus tour and stay tuned for a really rewarding Annual Meeting.

For those of you who are going south for the winter, keep safe and pleasant travels. We will see you in the spring.

Have a great fall!

Deadline for Next Badger Tracks

The deadline for the next BT will be October 15.

Your Board of Directors

President, Cliff Clauer, cclauer.mi@ymcamke.org

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VP, Georgi Starz, campnico@newnorth.net

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