

SPARKS

The Newsletter for Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga In the Beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina

Real Kids & Real Adventure & Real Growth & Real Value & Real Fun



Spring Newsletter Vol XXIV, No. II

Celebrating 52 Years of Camp and...

25 Summers with the TRUFANTS!

Back in 1988, just over a quarter of century ago, David & Anne Trufant visited a friend at Camp Chosatonga. His name was Bill Bailey and he was the boys' camp director at the time. We had a nice visit. We toured, did the slide and

had a great Bill in his Anne and of ours to and inspire in a fun and



time. It was so nice to see element. Oddly enough, for me, it had also been a dream own a camp and to challenge both counselors and campers adventuresome atmosphere.

So it was especially nice to see Bill doing this. He told us that

Camp Kahdalea for Girls was available for purchase, but we knew it was far beyond our reach. Nevertheless we dropped into Kahdalea for a brief visit.

Anne & I were in our mid-thirties and we both had great summertime experiences at different camps. After a decade in our respective vocations, Anne was in social work where she had been inspired to open a home for unwed mothers and I was in commercial photography. I was also teaching photojournalism at LSU and running adult wilderness

trips to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Canadian Rockies on the side. We knew that our camp experiences had been an amazing advantage in our lives, and an inspiration to keep challenging ourselves with big dreams. It was only natural that directing a camp would be one of our dreams... but alas there was little

doubt in out hearts that this opportunity would probably never be a reality.

Nearly a year later, in April 1989, I answered the phone to hear Bill Bailey's voice on the other end. He said "They're getting some activity on the camp and you and Anne should come up to the mountains to visit Kahdalea and meet Monty and Julie Oates, the owners." For some reason... go figure... (I should have know that God had his fingerprints all over this,) I thought we should plan a visit. When I suggested it to Anne, she said, "No way!" By then she was not interested. She had so many good friends and was loving life in Baton Rouge. I

said, "Oh c'mon. It's not like we are going to buy the camps! But it's always been a dream of ours, and one day, if we ever have the opportunity to buy a camp, we'll know more about it..."

Through some amazing miracles... (AMAZING!!) we closed on the purchase of both Kahdalea and Chosatonga in April 1990 and 25 years later we are still here with a lot more stories and even more incredible miracles that we are so grateful for. But most of all... it's been you, our

camp friends and believers in the dream. You who have been believers in the mission, and believers in what camp can and has done in your lives. AMAZING. Anne & I stand together and thank God and you for being in our lives.



On a ROLL!

WELCOME BACK PRO-GRAM DIRECTORS!

Sara Bergeron and **Adam Trufant** are returning to head our summer management team for another season!

What can we say? These two did a terrific job last year, they work to-

gether well and they know the camp family. Sara's been a camper, counselor, tribal leader, APD and a fantastic program director and here for 16 years. She is a professional social worker in Tennessee, but camp keeps calling her. Adam's been at camp for a very long time... say over 25 years. He's a graduate of Belmont Abbey College and National Outdoor Leadership School. He's has hiked, biked, climbed, and paddled in places like China, Thailand, Ne-

pal and New Zealand. He's a trip leader, worship leader, and a singer/song-writer. We are *thrilled* and DELIGHTED to have these two great leaders! (STAFF - You know it!) Another inspiring summer, no doubt.

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION!

CAMP PARTY!

CAMP FRIENDS! CAMP TIMES! Nothing like them!
See your old friends! Rendezvouz at CAMP! Remember
those times of adventure and camaraderie - hiking, laughing and
having the times of your lives in the majestic NC mountains! Let's do
that again! Bring your children! Play in the creeks and the woods. Visit
Black Balsam and Turtleback. Look for your cabin plaque. Relax in the
Adirondack chairs on the deck and laugh with your friends until the wee
hours of the morning. This is our 3rd celebration. They have all been one
of the "funnest" things and highly reviewed. Try not to miss this one!

Come, celebrate with us! 25 YEARS! Anne and David would LOVE to see you again. Sign up! Call 828-884-6834 or click: office@kahdalea.com!

Applications are at TwoFunCamps.com!





Weep us up to date with your EMAIL address. Take a second and call it in right now: 828-884-6834 we have an answering machine OR click office@kahdalea.com.

We need some VOLUNTEERS (Come on guys!) on the party committee to contact your friends - All Years Wanted! COME! ...bring the family, too. We can't wait! This is our third celebratory eventand they get raves! These are too fun! We'll pick up just where we left off. It is like we never left!

SAVE LABOR DAY WEEKEND - August 29th – September 1st

Our weekend will kick off Friday with dinner and continue through Monday morning. We'll focus on old friends, great memories and your favorite camp activities. Paddle, attend camp fire and chapel, climb the wall, take a short gorge hike or spend time at Black Balsam!

Of course there will be some in-camp activities as you socialize from old friend to old friend. There'll be trips and activities like the lake, archery or the craft shop and time to simply relax and read a book.

With YOU here, it's sure to make this an incredible experience! Get in touch with your old camp buddies and DON'T MISS IT! See the INFORMATION page at TwoFunCamps.com for details and update your email address with us for the latest updates and other events. Bring your family or come solo. We can't wait to celebrate with you!!! There will be limited space so please send in your registration early. If we overflow, you can bring a tent and camp out, or you can always grab a hotel in town. Check our website for a list of local accommodations.

Kids Today NEED Hope as They Grow Up



I know a bit about the pressures that kids have nowadays but it is hard for us adults from a previous generation to have real insight into today's challenges facing our precious young ones. They not only live with radically different social pressures than those their parents had to deal with, but they have the added stress and unknown pressures from the "virtual," on-line and "pluggedin" lifestyle. The pressures from the ubiquitous media are driving them away from life in general. They (and perhaps, we) have become withdrawn because of the constant presence and bombardment of information. Massive amounts of emails, texts, links, screen advertisements have driven us all to want to escape. That affects our children's desire to participate and it has the added

effect of potentially reducing the amount of time that we parents have to spend in close and constructive time with our children who need a lifeline to a wholesome community.

Some time around high school, our kids face so many destructive messages coming at them that many of them look up and say something like "Wow, what's going on here. Am I the only one not doing all of these

> things? I've been left behind." And I ask "What are those 'things?" They are some very destructive things.

What is missing? HOPE. The hope that comes from seeing so many young people making good decisions in this world and making it work. The hope that helps our campers to "know better." The hope that helps to provide with the strength to say "I don't have to give

into 'that' behavior because I have seen better options in action!" That is one thing we are blessed with at camp. We have the "unusual" culture here. We are blessed to attract

staff who show us and our young people the way. These committed counselors are an antidote. They help make this community is a place where our youth can learn to live it out a better way. Here, we spend significant time in

real life with real challenges and real connections that give real meaning and hope. Thank God.

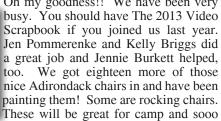


LOTS GOING ON! New Bikes, Boats, Trailers, Adirondack Chairs, Shower House & MORE...



Oh my goodness!! We have been very

very nice for the 25th Celebration **Party!** We also have about a dozen new BIKES to go with the two new and awesome bike trailers from last year. These trailers are a new design that makes moving bikes very easy. No wheels to remove or tiedowns!





We have some new kayaks, and a new shower house at Chosatonga. We have been preparing the flower beds, trimming trees and much more. We have some awesome new staff, too. Don't worry, we have lots of old-timers joining us again. REMEM-BER, it's still not too late to bring a friend

to camp. We can't







SCHOOL GROUP!

Join us! Sign up now for LAKE HIGHLAND PREP, MAY 18-20. LHP is a group of high school seniors and their goal is to have some fun and good times with their fellow classmates before they ventuire off into their separate ways. We take them pretty much wherever they want to go. We hike in the North Fork Gorge, We rock climb, paddle on Wolf Creek Lake, go to Turtleback, Dupont, the high ridges of Tennent and Black Balsam and we paddle the Nantahala. Get out into the early spring high mountains. Call or click the office and let us know you are in. Later on, after camp, we have Family Camp and Envoy in August. Please keep spreading the word.

Staff Notes

ur staff is terrific! That is what sets us apart. We are extra excited because Kahdalea has less than a third of first timers on staff and at this time, Chosatonga has only three who have never been at Chosatonga before! We are simply thrilled by the high levels of experienced counselors returning. It appears an unusually outstanding summer lies ahead.

So many are returning! Buck Beatrous, MC Robichaux and Susannah Robichaux, Josh Ault, Anja Roy, Joe Howe, Chris Colclough, Mike Crosby, Kelly Briggs, the Pergolas, Colin Clark, Anna Holleman, Blake Spruill, Raul Doria, Maggie, Francis and Bit Thompson, Marybelle Bates, Len Holland, Michelle Dalton, Sam Chasuk, Austin Ashcraft, Robert Fleichel, Christie Peaslee,

Ben Longenecker and so many more will be

back, as well as Jeff & Adam Trufant... We are so excited for our staff!

You should be able to see the entire staff on the staff forms page of the website. AND Be sure to book your "Pre-Pre-Camp Clinics." Don't hesitate to call if you have a question! We are at your service.



The Motor Coach to Camp is Ready!

It is so nice to make the trip to camp such an easy thing! We have again for transportation still at 2010 prices from arranged MS & AL. The bus gets rave reviews from campers! Less expensive than driving, it's another great value from camp. Sign up by going to TwoFunCamps.com. And, don't forget to tell your friends! Thanks!



Brush up or get ahead on Wilderness Shelter Building!

Take a few minutes to get a jump on the game. When campers and staff go into the woods, it may be that things are great... until there is a storm in the middle of the night and they are not prepared. A good rule of thumb is to ALWAYS (in the east) set up a shelter, then go out and sleep where it is the most comfortable and enjoy the gentle breezes and the STARS! If it begins to rain, move to your shelter. We have put a video on YouTube that shows a class from a school group. "Wilderness Tarp Shelter Building" is at this address. https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQYSabwcgac ENJOY!



LA









McCall's Magazine & Camp Friendships! A past May issue of McCall's - page 59 says, "Session length: A four week session"

A past May issue of McCall's - page 59 says, "Session length: A four week session is the minimum for a complete camp experience, with time to adjust, and to develop friendships." Ah Yes!... "Develop friendships"... a parent who used to work at a summer camp with one and 2 week sessions said "It was like a revolving door, all of the faces were a blur."

Although one week camps play a good role and help develop independence, campers mostly make "aquaintances" and not deep and lasting friendships. Camp friendships are such a gift when you have time to make them. At Kahdalea and Chosatonga, we don't want to be a short, structured, "high entertainment" camp. We want to be a place where campers feel "safe" being themselves and have time to watch the stars, play in the streams and *to make deep lifelong friendships*.

The real impact of camp is realized when a camper is immersed in a quality setting for long enough to not just see the benefits, but to receive and accept them.

We, at Kahdalea and Chosatonga, belive in being a good Value. McCall's Magazine says, "...note any extra charges."

Additional fees may be charged for horseback riding, special trips, and insurance. Consider how much the "extra activities" add to the overall program, and whether you or your child considers them essential to the camp experience."

We include a full camp program for the tuition. I'm aware of another camps that charge \$40 to \$150 for trips out of camp. For trips like whitewater on the Nantahala, which we do often during the summer, these other campers must call home and ask for another \$60 in order to be allowed to go! We're proud of our policy.

Don't forget to ask about diet and snacks. Some camps sell what we would normally call junk food in the camp store to a more than willing audience. Are there limits on the amount of snacks sold? When is the store open? Do they open the store (and sell snacks) just before lunch? At Kahdalea and Chosatonga we keep a bowl of fruit out for snacks all of the time and we don't want to take advantage of our young campers and sell any food in our camp store.

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This is an actual portion of an application from a nearby camp with tuition similar to Kahdalea and Chosatonga (actually a bit higher). Remember that Kahdalea and Chosatonga don't charge extra for trips and we do dozens of trips per week. Note "The" (must just do one) rock climbing trip and even basic riding instruction!











Remember Saying This?

Our Prayer

GIVE me clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts;

HELP me to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong;

SAVE me from the habits that harm;

TEACH me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy sight alone as if all the world saw;

FORGIVE me, when I am unkind, and help me to forgive those who are unkind to me;

KEEP me ready to help others at some cost to myself;

SEND me chances to do a little good every day, and so grow more like Christ.

-Wm. DeWitt Hyde

Bowdoin College









2014 - Oh what a SUMMER!!

More campers to come. We are so excited about this summer! So many of you are coming back and we have new campers, too! Got FOMO? It's not too late! Applications are still coming in every day! Thank you! Our family camp is growing! Please keep spreading the good word! ...AND CAMPERS... You are our best ambassadors! Bring your friends & join us when camp begins!

KAHDALEA

Natalie Aguillard, Prairieville, LA Kaitlyn Alsina, Annapolis, MD Bella Arbelaez, Memphis, TN Hoolies Arbelaez, Memphis, TN Olivia Fruge, Baton Rouge, LA Julia Garner, Edgefield, SC Claire Gautier, Gautier, MS Hannah Gautier, Gautier, MS Jessica Gerac, Greer, SC



Fia Arbelaez, Memphis, TN Mae Babin, Prairieville, LA Conlie Banker, Prairieville, LA Camille Barbin, Baton Rouge, LA Elise Barbin, Baton Rouge, LA Frances Barousse, Covington, LA Marianna Barrett, Charleston, SC Carolyn Barrett, Charleston, SC Madison Belk, Hendersonville, NC Leyla Belk, Hendersonville, NC Kimber Belk, Hendersonville, NC Jeanne Claire Benton, , Lilly Bernard, Kernersville, NC Molly Bernard, Kernersville, NC Mary Margaret Bernard, Birmingham, AL SarahBeth Bernard, Kernersville, NC Grace Bienvenu, Baton Rouge, LA Kate Bishop, Fayettville, AR Maria Boyd, Chuluota, FL Baylor Brann, Baton Rouge, LA Emily Brent, Lumberton, NJ Anna Brouillette, Mandeville, LA Grace Buckhorn, Tampa, FL Colleen Buckhorn, Tampa, FL Bryson Buffington, Greer, SC Mary Grace Burkett, Orlando, FL Katie Carmouche, Baton Rouge, LA Caroline Cashio, Baton Rouge, LA Frances Cave, Washington, DC Louisa Cave, Washington, DC Alyssa Chapman, Raleigh, NC Janie Chatham, Bradenton, FL Adele Clark, Houma, LA Marianne Clark, Baton Rouge, LA Raime Cooper, Wilmington, NC Faith Costello, Richfield, OH Caroline Criminger, Charlotte, NC Mary-Margaret Cummings, McLean, VA Monique Cummings, McLean, VA Caroline Curran, Greer, SC Emma Curran, Greer, SC Jeanne Adelle Daniel, St. Francisville, LA Diana Darr, Covington, LA Alyce Davis, Lafayette, LA Stephanie Desforges, Covington, LA Maggie DiLeo, Baton Rouge, LA Ashlyn Dinnan-Fanelli, Boynton Beach, FL Hanna Draddy, Arden, NC Ann Marie Ellender, Mer Rouge, LA Isabel Favaloro, Mandeville, LA Rachael Floto, Bradenton, FL Sophia Forget, Wildwood, MO Anna Forget, Wildwood, MO

Anna Kate Franke, Covington, LA

Hannah Golden, Tampa, FL Arianna Golden, Tampa, FL Eliza Graham, Brevard, NC Soren Granger, Aiken, SC Elena Grembowicz, Madisonville, LA Ninon Guillot, Saint Gervais, FRANCE Emma Guillot, Saint Gervais, FRANCE Claire Hadlock, Baton Rouge, LA Alex Hebert, Jeanerette, LA Margaret Held, Montclair, NJ Mary Elliott Hester, Asheville, NC Maggie Hurdle, Rosedale, LA Isabella Hutchinson, Welch, WV Julia Jacques, Greer, SC Elle Johnston, Bradenton, FL Maya Juarez, Bryan, OH Lilly Kidder, Mobile, AL



Catherine King, Lake Mary, FL
Sarah King, Lake Mary, FL
Mary Campbell Kitchens, Birmingham, AL
Jane Laville, Baton Rouge, LA
Annabelle Laville, Baton Rouge, LA
Elizabeth Lemann, Baton Rouge, LA
Sofia Lew, Marietta, GA
Amelia Lohr, Smyrna, GA
Irina LoPresti, Marietta, GA
Caroline Mayronne, Covington, LA
Maggie Mayronne, Covington, LA
Kaelyn McDonagh, Katy, TX
Melayna McKinney, Martinez, GA

Michaela McQuaig, Carlisle, PA Lily Milano, Benbrook, TX Diana Montgomery, Colmesneil, TX Angela Montgomery, Colmesneil, TX Mary Reagan Moran, Pineville, LA Emily Moren, Berea, KY Mary-Kate Murphy, Covington, LA Chloe Musgrove, Aledo, TX Clemence Naulleau, Saint Gervais, FRANCE Corinne Newbern, Raleigh, NC Kendall Ourso, Baton Rouge, LA Mary Catherine Pankus, Fort Mills, SC Anna Patrick, Covington, LA Gina Pergola, Slidell, LA Parker Piacun, Metairie, LA Caroline Putnam, Atlanta, GA Lilly Randolph, W. Palm Beach, FL Marion Randolph, W. Palm Beach, FL Elli Reginelli, New Orleans, LA Natalie Richter, Nashville, TN Danielle Richter, Nashville, TN Cornelia Roach, Greenwich, CT Anna Romero, Lafayette, LA Anna Sutton Rouse, Savannah, GA Georgia Rydson, Melbourne Beach, FL Julia Sant, Hinsdale, IL Kaley Schaefer, Melbourne, FL Georgia Seeboth, Austin, TX Gabbe Sehon, Denham Springs, LA Madeline Shultz, Lexington, MA Sarah Grace Stafford, Decatur, GA Olivia Stafford, Decatur, GA Sophie Stanley, Murfreesboro, TN Ava Stanley, Murfreesboro, TN Cecilia Stansberry, Pickens, SC Maggie Stolpe, Evans, GA Emma Talbot, Montgomery, AL Margaret Turner, Baton Rouge, LA Mary-Elliott Turner, Baton Rouge, LA Arden Turner, Bell City, LA Liv Vanderhoff, Raleigh, NC Caroline Velasquez, Baton Rouge, LA Raven Vines, Baton Rouge, LA Sicily Wafer, Baton Rouge, LA Amira Warden, Covington, LA Olivia Warden, Covington, LA Gloria Warner, Arlington, TX Madison Watt, Indialantic, FL Elizabeth White, Charleston, SC Eliza Williams, Cordova, TN Evangeline Willis, Baton Rouge, LA Amy Wilson, Baton Rouge, LA

Marguerite Wynne, Covington, LA CHOSATONGA Matthew Aguillard, Prairieville, LA Andre Aguillard, Prairieville, LA Tucker Arbaugh, Hunterville, NC Will Ashworth, Montgomery, AL Kenneth Avanzino, Madisonville, LA Allen Babin, Prairieville, LA Jack Baney, Indialantic, FL Ethan Barbin, Baton Rouge, LA Justin Bennett, Belle Isle, FL Sam Bishop, Fayettville, AR Jacob Blomquist, Brevard, NC Sam Brashier, St. Francisville, LA Henry Bridges, Mobile, AL Brockman Brunini, Monroe, LA Elliott Brunini, Monroe, LA Andrew Burkett, Brevard, NC John David Burns, Auburn, AL Connor Carmichael, Staunton, VA Robert Carmouche, Baton Rouge, LA Reed Carpenter, Mobile, AL Patrick Carroll, Ft. Lauderdale, FL Walker Cave, Washington, DC Luke Chasuk, Baton Rouge, LA Hayes Chatham, Bradenton, FL Jackson Cretin, Covington, LA Jack Criminger, Charlotte, NC Steven Demetropoulos, Pascagoula, MS Charles DeRussy, New Orleans, LA Robert DeRussy, New Orleans, LA Nick DiLeo, Baton Rouge, LA

Allison Wozniak, Champaign, IL

Noah Eitman, New Orleans, LA John Ellender, Mer Rouge, LA Will Ellender, Mer Rouge, LA Ryan Flood, Mandeville, LA Christopher Flood, Mandeville, LA Nick Forsyth, Mount Holly, NC Jacob Gautier, Gautier, MS Cove Geary, Mandeville, LA Jaylan Gerald, Baker, LA Hunter Goodson, Baton Rouge, LA Cassidy Gorla, Todd, NC Elijah Gorla, Todd, NC Noah Graham, Brevard, NC Robert Hadlock, Baton Rouge, LA Dane Harbison, Vancleave, MS Riley Harris, Raleigh, NC Jake Hebert, Jeanerette, LA George Held, Montclair, NJ Joseph Held, Montclair, NJ Zach Hendrickson, Whispering Pines, NC Philip Hester, Asheville, NC Patrick Judd, Aiken, SC J.P. Keating, Heathrow, FL Sid Keller, Baton Rouge, LA Ben King, Lake Mary, FL Andrew Lambert, Mandeville, LA Pete Laville, Baton Rouge, LA George Lee, Covington, LA Todd Long, Ft. Myers, Fl Kyle Long, Ft. Myers, FL



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THIS IS YOUR INVITATION!

Greetings to the alumni of Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga! You are cordially invited to join your friends as we celebrate

25 YEARS WITH THE TRUFANTS

Labor Day Weekend 2014 at Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga in Brevard, North Carolina.

(Join us! Read inside for details & keep us current with your addresses.)

