

THE ALUMNAE CIRCLE

ONAWAY

Spring



2009

ONAWAY'S TRIP PROGRAM – ALIVE AND WELL

When I first started as the head of the trip program three summers ago, I had a simple idea. That idea was that everyone is capable of enjoying and benefiting from an experience in the “backcountry.” I know how easy it is to get discouraged about hiking when the trail seems too steep, the pace too fast, and the bag lunch too puny, but I also know how wonderful a trip can be with a little shift in perspective. It was my hope to build upon the existing trip program so that leaving camp for an afternoon, a night, or even several days would broaden campers’ appreciation for the natural wonders of New Hampshire, develop a lasting set of skills, and create a multi-age community of support.

I started with the youngest campers, knowing that their perspectives were the most easily influenced by the enthusiasm (or lack thereof) of other campers. I sent them on easy hikes to exciting destinations, gave them good food, let them play silly games. And it worked. By the end of my first summer heading up the program, optional hikes were inundated with Wendies and Hilltops eager to prove themselves.

Now the real challenge began. How to convince those who had already made up their minds about hiking? This required bigger action. At the beginning of my second year as head of trips, I decided that the camp would hike the Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail is 2,147 miles long and makes its



Lindsay Crevoiserat (5th from the left) flanked by other 175 mile hopefuls.

way up the eastern coast of the United States from Georgia to Maine. Many of our trips already hiked portions of the trail in New Hampshire, so it was a logical choice as an incentive. Each week that summer I added up every single mile that every camper, aide, and counselor walked on a trip and plotted our course from Georgia on a large map. By the end of the sixth week we had “reached Maine” and set many personal and camp records for the number of miles hiked.

One of my favorite moments of that summer occurred on the top of Mt. Moosilauke with a group of older campers. As we ate lunch, we discussed whether we should go down the way we had come up or take a longer route down. After much discussion, one of the Skytops said, “Miss Liz, if we take the longer way down will we make it through Virginia?” I’m sure the question would have perplexed any other hikers who were listening (we were in New Hampshire after all), but it was music to my ears.

As the camp’s enthusiasm for hiking has grown, the program itself has expanded to accommodate the surge in interest. The Rattlesnake Mountain dinner and breakfast hikes which usually happened a couple of times each summer became so popular that I had to schedule them once a week, and even then I kept a wait list so that everyone got to go. More difficult day hikes filled up for the first time in my memory. I added another major trip, the Just for Fun Adventure Trip (JFFAT), a combination hiking and canoeing trip. Older campers signed up for the most advanced hiking trips in addition to canoeing and sailing trips. And we sent a healthy sized group of backpackers to tackle the Mahoosuc Notch, reportedly the hardest mile on the Appalachian Trail.

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SUMMER 2009

Camp Opens:	June 27
Fair Weekend:	July 18-19
Cup Weekend:	August 14-16

Trip Program, continued from page 1

In the early 2000's, a new plaque was created to honor any camper who hiked an accumulated 175 miles over their summers at camp. The plaque remained empty until 2004 when Amanda Noble became the first to reach the 175 mile mark. Now, with more campers going out on more trips, there is a renewed enthusiasm to reach 175 miles. Those attempting to hike 175 miles over the course of their camper years numbered about 12 last summer and ranged in age from Hilltops to Skytops. This group of dedicated hikers went on nearly every signup hike that was offered, becoming close friends as they shared stories, challenges, and their lunches.



Future 175 mile hikers

At the end of this past summer I took a group to Jumping Rock, a well-known location on Squam Lake where swimmers can take an eight foot plunge into the water. The spot had become one of my favorites as it required a walk of about a mile and a half to reach, and the campers I brought never seemed to complain about the "hike." On this particular morning we found ourselves in the middle of a torrential down pour. My boots were full of water and my shirt stuck to my skin. It could have been miserable, but I was surrounded by smiling, giggling girls, eager to get in the water and make the most of our last adventure of the summer. Skytop Lindsay Crevoiserat jumped first. While she was under water I nodded to the rest of the campers and we burst into song as she surfaced. "She's hiked 175 miles now! She's hiked 175 miles now!" A smile spread across her face as the other girls jumped into the water to offer their congratulations. Lindsay's name will be added to the 175 Mile Hiker plaque and hopefully, in the years to come so will many of the other campers who hiked through the rain to celebrate with her. □

Liz Clark

100 YEARS YOUNG

It is with tremendous excitement that we announce that planning for Onaway's Centennial Celebration is under way.

To celebrate the rich traditions of our past 100 years and help usher in the next, be part of the historic festivities, August 20-21, 2011, on Newfound Lake.

Such a milestone deserves enormous energy and attention, and teams are being put together now to plan and execute the centennial weekend. If you'd like to be part of the planning process—or if you have any comments about what would make the weekend special for you—write to Julie Raboin Willis, willismj@msn.com, or Sue Hatch, sghatch@comcast.net.

Much more information will be available soon (just four more newsletters before the event!), but it's not too soon to start thinking about a trip to the center of camp, the rock, the waterfront, the log cabin ... Contact your old cabin groups and get the conversation started. Be a part of history, August 20-21, 2011.

Each issue of the *Alumnae Circle* will feature one decade of memories from an alumna or a group. On the following page, Patty Rockensies shares hers from the 80's. If you would be interested in representing your decade in a future newsletter, please call the office and let us know.

ONAWAY'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

The Onaway Board of Trustees was pleased to welcome one new member at its November meeting in Litchfield, Conn. Joining the board is alumna Betsy Haggett Moschella. Betsy was a camper from 1970 – 1973, an Aide in 1974 and a counselor from 1977-1980. She has three daughters. Sarah is a college sophomore, Merry Richter who will be a Skytop this summer, and future Onaway girl, Kim, who is in third grade.



Betsy Haggett Moschella.

Betsy is the Staffing Manager at Actavis Pharmaceuticals. She oversees all US recruitment of professional and non-exempt staff in the R&D, Science, Clinical, Lab, Quality, Operations and Administrative functions. When Actavis came to the US through its acquisition of three companies, she was brought onboard to centralize the staffing function and its processes.

Betsy's energy and loyalty have already proven to be a wonderful addition to the Board. She is serving on the Development Committee and as both an alumna and a parent, her varied perspectives and connections are invaluable. "Involvement in Onaway's growth seems to align perfectly with my passion for girls, the arts and my profession." Welcome, Betsy!

FINANCIAL AID

Onaway continues to increase the amount of money awarded to campers in the form of scholarships. For the summer of 2009, scholarships will be given to 16 campers and four OWLEs. Candidates fill out applications and a committee of three board members and the director determine the amounts. Although Onaway is priced lower than most similar camps, we recognize how difficult it can be for some families and encourage families to apply. In addition to the general endowment fund, these scholarships and training for our counselors comes from the following Scholarship Funds:

Raymond D. Brown Memorial Fund	The Anne P. Peterson Scholarship Fund
Susan R. Cragin Scholarship Fund	Francis Pitts Fund
Francis M. Frost Fund	Rosen Memorial Fund
The Johnson-Kent Fund for Staff Support	Mary and Robert Shea Campership Fund
Caroline Morgan Southall Endowment Fund	

MEMORIES FROM THE 80's

I will never forget the opening day of camp in 1982. It was my first summer at Onaway and I boarded the bus with excited anticipation. I immediately observed how friendly everyone was – girls were giggling, stretched across laps, stuffing their faces with candy. Looking around the bus, I recall noticing how “cool” Betsy Bromley seemed and how funny the Lind sisters were. Arriving at camp, screeches of joy made me desperately long to experience the same delight and elation. Rain sputtered down on that day and the soon-to-be-familiar odor of mildew wafted through my nostrils. I knew I was in a special place.



Mariska **Neitzman** and Anne **Thompson**

McIlvain and Alexandra Ringe performing on stage – so many of us looked up to them. Then there were those counselors who were “famous” for their one-of-a-kind contributions to Onaway: Mr. Geep’s performances of “Guitarzan” and Miss Florence’s introduction of “Bubblin’ Over.” I also vividly recall Mr. Jon Hawkinson leading “Dem Bones” as well as him performing as a puppet in the Counselor Show while Miss Katie Graff served as puppeteer. One summer Miss Catherine DeLaura was kidnapped by the Skytops and chained to a tree in the center of camp. I believe their intention was to hold her hostage until the council relinquished the dunk to them. I have memories of Miss Jenn Robert’s dry wit, Miss Julie Raboin’s grace, Miss Phyllis Woestemeyer’s long and slender fingers testing the efficacy of a “shakeout,” Mrs. Ramsay’s presence on the waterfront, and Miss Lou O’Brien’s strength as one of the first crew counselors at Onaway.

While specific individuals come my mind from my camper years, so do the two major storms that hit Onaway during the ‘80’s. In 1983 a squall accompanied by bolts of lightning toppled trees throughout the property. Huddled close to girls inside Woodland Hall, I still can hear the thunderous crack of the tree that once stood by the Farmhouse. In 1986 another storm hit camp, leaving golf-ball-sized hail everywhere. As we walked past the Chapel later, we all were “creeped out” by the fact that Mrs. Southall’s chair was blown over – as though that were a precursor of some impending doom awaiting her!

The performances of the ‘80’s are also striking. Mrs. Taylor starred in *The Little Prince* alongside Sarah Southall, Kristen Vitacco played a superb Templeton in *Charlotte’s Web*, and the Birch Bark Bark writings served as the script for *Midnight Fire*, *Secret Dreams*. I envision the Onaway stage inhabited by actors from

Godspell, *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Oliver*, *Pfizer’s People*, and *Free to Be, You and Me*.” The Dance Pageants prove memorable as well, especially *Peter Pan* when, as Chippies, we had to dance in our underwear! In those days, rocks and roots covered the floor of the Outdoor Theatre

–these 21st century campers could not possibly relate to our pain as they now float gingerly across a refurbished theatre floor of thick sod! I also recall the night of the 1982 talent show when the lights went out as well as the year that Sarah Scott donned rabbit ears for her role in a waterfront adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*.

And who could forget the Pancake Breakfast of 1985? I was a Laketop that summer and lay in bed awake after taps. The hill was quiet when I suddenly heard a muffled voice over a loudspeaker. Apparently, Miss Lynne Cogavin heard it as well and came to the conclusion that it was informing the camp to evacuate. I next heard Miss Lynne yell, “Everybody down the hill!” High pitched screams and the sounds of slamming doors reverberated through cabin groups as we all ran barefoot in darkness towards the center of camp...right into Mr. Geep who stood at the bottom of the hill with a large flashlight and a stern look. “Everyone back UP the hill,” he firmly directed. And so we went, some whimpering from the scare, some giggling and still others who acted scared so they, too, could hang out in their counselors’ cabin to hear a happy story. The following day we discovered that the announcement emanated from a passing car advertising a “Pancake Breakfast” in Hebron. Poor Miss Lynne – it could have happened to any of us!

Yet, my best memories of camp in the ‘80’s are timeless and will likewise be shared by the campers of 2009. I recall loving my camp directors – both Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Southall – and eagerly requesting “Had I the Wings of an Airplane.” I remember my favorite Evening Programs: the M&M game, Singdown, LipSyncs and Paper Bag Skits. I fondly recall heated Brown and White games on Saturday afternoons, scribbling down a quick Sunday letter so I’d get dessert, beaning, nails and trips to the Mary Lamb. The sounds of laughter during evening skinny dips still invade my thoughts as do the feelings of accomplishment accompanying the “passing” of a skill or the summiting of a mountain. I remember walk-in breakfasts, singing at meals, Cake Night and flagline.

Mostly, however, I remember the peace of the Chapel, the calm of the sunsets and the warmth of the love that filled the air as we all sang on the Rock with our arms around one another. I remember Onaway as safe – a place where I could be myself.



Angela **Carini**

REUNIONS 2009

Just when it seems that campers are far, far away, it is time for my reunion travels to begin. How uplifting to hear stories from the girls, see how they have grown and get to know some of the new campers who will be at Onaway this summer. Small or large, each reunion showed real Onaway spirit and has made summer seem not quite as far off.

I began in Baltimore in January at the home of Shernita and Zoey Lipscomb. With help from cousins Sydney and Tia Newton, we enjoyed home-made pizzas, Onaway cookies and a variety of other treats. New campers, Phoebe Spare and Cate Chapin were escorted through the photo albums and slides and seemed excited about this new adventure.

A couple of weeks later, I went to Fairfield, CT to the home of Whitney and Jim Vose. A combination of old and new campers, parents, counselor, Miss Sam Walsh, alumnae Mom Sarah **Woodring** Cooper shared stories of recent summers and summers long ago.



Front row: Kiva Sewell, Zoey Lipscomb.
Back row: Sydney **Newton**, Annie George,
Victoria **Schramm**, Tia **Newton**, Cate Chapin,
Phoebe Spare, Miss Bailey **Rice**.



Front row: Daisy Mazio, Annie Rotch, Abigail Phaneuf, Ally Hurdman, Jane Lindstrom, Emily Quinan, Juliet Hollingsworth, Chelsea Gilliland.
2nd row: Katie Marks, Brookie Lanigan, Miss Jess **Mailloux**, Megan McNierney, Hannah Tellier. 3rd row: Miss Juila **Hoffman**, Serena Saini, Miss Gevvie **Stone**, Eliza Amory, Emily Phaneuf, Catherine Ostholthoff, Lindsay Crevoiserat, Julia Bradshaw, Miss Alaina **Gordon**, Kara Merryfield, Miss Kath **Keen**, Fran McNierney.

The next day in Andover, MA at the home of Kathy and Bo Baird, a large crowd came out even though it was Superbowl Sunday. The Hurdmans brought a heart shaped Onaway cake, and hot cider and cookies kept everyone warm and in good spirits. Many of the returning campers made new and prospective campers feel welcome explaining some of the traditions and routines that appeared in the photo albums and slides. Many former counselors, Trustees and parents were also in attendance.

The following weekend I drove to St David's, PA for the Philadelphia area gathering at the home of Phil and Carolyn Wallis. Former camper and counselor. Miss Liza Wallis, came up from Washington D.C. where she is now working to help out and shared some of her old photos with the group. We heard about Hillary Graff's dog training and Kelsey Hoekstra's soccer team. Merry Richter is very excited to be a Skytop this summer.

My final stop was in New York City the following day at the home of John



Left to right: Maddie and Elena DeLaCencela, Caroline Kriesen, Rachel Wolfe, Lizzie O'Connell, Miss Sam **Walsh**, Maggie Cooper, Anne **Peterson** Conolly.



Front row: Stina and Nique Giordano, Sara Van Schaik, Janet Conklin, Allie Davidge. 2nd row: Chelsea and Tyler Dillard, Miss Julia **Hoffman**, Miss Claire **Nick**, Miss Sam **Walsh**, Miss Liz **Angney**, Miss Sophie **Jacobi**.

Davidge and Deborah Lott, parents of Allie Davidge. Assistant Director, Liz **Angney**, along with other former and current counselors caught up with all the activities the girls are involved in over the winter. There was much talk about OWLES and new campers Sara Van Schaik and Janet Conklin were able to ask questions about the upcoming summer.

I wish to thank all the reunion hosts for opening their homes and making each reunion special. With the help of the internet, Onaway friends are keeping in touch much more during the year, but nothing replaces reconnecting in person with a true Onaway hug. It will certainly help sustain me until the summer begins.



Front row: Carly Marshall, Meredith Graff, Kelsey Hoekstra, Emily Ammon, Merry Richter.
2nd Row: Miss Megan **Underwood**, Hillary Graff, Mrs. Conolly.

Memories, continued from page 3



Mrs. **Ramsay** and Mr. Geep

Onaway is where I gained the confidence to speak my mind and the insight to listen as others spoke theirs. I learned to ap-

preciate the beauty of nature and to treasure moments spent on Newfoundland Lake. Summers were simple, pure and joyful – every day was packed with activities so that each one seemed to last forever, but nevertheless passed by in the blink of an eye. I remember the poignancy of path talks, the encouragement of girls on the beach for those nearing the end of their timed paddle and the hugs of lifelong friends. For me, Onaway was and always will be a place where each night at Circle indeed is "the end of a perfect day." □

Patty Rockensies

ALUMNAE GATHERING – ANDOVER, MA

As part of the pre-Centennial planning, alumnae groups are gathering around the country. Last fall in San Francisco several generations of campers convened, kicking off our campaign to reach as many alumnae as possible before the 2011 weekend. On March 1st of this year, Kathy Broderick Baird and Lisa Sarno hosted a party at Kathy's house in Andover. In spite of a snow-storm, alumnae came from Massachusetts and New Hampshire spanning Onaway years from the 40's through the 2000's. The similarities in our experiences were both touching and hilarious.

Kathy and Lisa's invitation asked alumnae to write a "six word memoir" describing their experiences at camp. Even those who could not attend sent us their memoirs and we enjoyed reading them aloud as a group – at times laughing, at times tearing up a bit. A sampling follows:

Singing, hugs, laughing, growing, self-confidence.
 Favorite morning: Canoe, canoe, swim, free.
 Rowing, growing, sterning, learning, moving, loving.
 Made me the person I am today.
 Horses, woods, raspberries, blueberries, library, jacks.
 Discovering self, friends, mentors, forever connections.

Loved, happy, challenged. Traditions, bonding, remember.
 Happy, fun, friendships, peaceful, safe, ideals.
 Happiness, love, serenity, friends, chapel, maturity.
 Counselor one, Board ten, Loved all!
 Miss Stiles, waterfront, campfire rock, campers, intense engagement (oops – too many words!)
 Outdoor skills to last a lifetime.
 Was not always a model camper.
 Friendship, laughter, outdoor fun, tiny cabins, jacks (oops, over the limit!)
 Jacks, singing, friends, laughter, unrestrained happiness.
 Fun, Real, Inspirational, Encouraging, Never-ending, Dramatic.
 Boulderred, rooted paths through golden woods.
 Courage, community, confidence, creativity, compassion. camaraderie.
Better girls of us to make!

If you are interested in hosting a gathering in your area, please let us know at the Onaway office. There is much ground to cover in the next two years and we would love every alumna to be able to relive her Onaway memories. Many thanks to Kathy and Lisa for kicking off 2009 with such a fun party.



Viewing the slide show.



Alison **Reed** Quinan, Patty **Rockensics**, Sue **Hatch**, Kendra **Motley** Demopoulos



Kittredge **Bush** White and Kim **Heller** Strong



Julie **Raboin** Willis, Sara **Martin** and Kathy **Broderick** Baird

ONAWAY WORK WEEKEND

What are you doing the first weekend in June?

As Camp Onaway prepares for its ninety-eighth (!) summer, we are excited to announce the fourth consecutive Onaway Work Weekend. Mr. Gene has been hard at work all winter with some wonderful projects including a new roof for the dining hall, some exciting improvements to Woodland Hall, major maintenance to the Infirmary and a redesign of the Wendies/Hilltops and Tiptops bathrooms for better privacy. But much remains to be done to insure that this summer is the best one ever.

Last year a wonderful group of campers, alumnae, parents and trustees demolished the old lean-to, planted flower boxes, weeded, painted, and sorted

through the entire library collection. If you haven't come up for a work weekend, it is a great time with great people. No prior skills required; just a love of Onaway.

Come for a half day, a full day, come for two days, or come up Friday night and spend the whole weekend with wonderful people. Join us during the weekend of Friday, June 5th through Sunday June 7th.

We'd love to have you stay at camp; there are beds available in Northpoint, the Hollister House and Gateway, or you can camp out in the new lean-to. All ages are welcome -- last year we had newborns to octogenarians. Please contact the



Even the young pitch in!

camp office at regan@camponaway.org or 518-443-0004 so we can plan for projects and we know how much pancake mix, blueberries and New Hampshire maple syrup to bring for Saturday breakfast! □

Fred Jackson

CAMP ONAWAY 2009 SEASON



A familiar opening day scene.

At a meeting that I attended in early December, camp directors from all over New England and as far away as Minnesota compared notes about the upcoming summer. Like everyone in and out of the camp world, we were nervously watching the economy and wondering how it might affect enrollment, our endowments, and our ability to continue important programs such as financial aid and counselor training. With careful budgeting by us and our Onaway families, summer 2009 looks to be a wonderful one with a full camp, a strong staff, and a solid commitment to “business as usual.”

There will be 92 campers, 70 returning campers and 22 new ones. The council will be close to half returning and half new – a talented and enthusiastic group, all of whom were campers, OWLES, or Aides (or all three) prior to becoming counselors. There will be seven or eight Aides and nine OWLES under the direction of Liz Lucarelli and Juli

Mahoney. Miss Liz Angney will be the Assistant Director for her second summer bringing her expert teaching skills, her loyalty to Onaway and her great sense of humor.

As winter slowly disappears, I am excited to kick off the summer of 2009. I hope that any alumnae in the area will join us on the lake!

ON BECOMING A COUNSELOR

Onaway circles take on many meanings. Our circle each night brings the whole camp together at “the end of a perfect day.” Our cabins are in circles and we circle the dining hall to celebrate successes. Over the winter, I enjoyed another Onaway circle – former campers completing the circle of their Onaway experience by applying to become counselors.

I was touched by their thoughtful responses to the question, “Why do you want to be a counselor?” Their desire to give back to a place that has given them so much validates our mission at camp. I decided to share some of their answers:

“Onaway taught me to love myself and to love others; it taught me to expect more of myself, as well as dig deep down inside my clay pot to discover all the treasures I have to share. I want to try my best to be like the wonderful counselors who influenced me during my camper years, and maybe inspire the girls to be proud of themselves and to find strengths at camp that they can apply to the outside world.”

“Ever since I was a Wendy at age 9, I looked forward to becoming a counselor. I want to complete the Onaway experience and participate in the community in a more dynamic role. As a camper, the counselors were my role models; I want the chance to give back and be that role model and be part of creating the magical summer experience that has continuously drawn me back to Onaway.”

“As a camper, the counselors were a constant source of comfort and support during my time away from home. As I grew older, I found the counselors to be some of my most important and influential role models, whom I was able to confide in and respect...I have looked forward to being a counselor so that I could provide the campers with support.”

“Camp means so much to me because I know what a difference it has made for me. I try to live with the Onaway spirit every day.”



Six of these 2006 Aides will be on the council this summer.

“Looking back at my six summers at Onaway, I can always distinguish my summers by the counselors I had that year. At such an influential age, the seemingly simple interactions I had with counselors have stayed with me.”

“I love Onaway. It has been a huge part of my life, including (but not limited to) the six summers I have spent as part of its community. I grew exponentially because of it, and I want to pass on that gift to the next group of girls.”

“While the tangible skills of mastering the front crawl, throwing a pot on the wheel, or tying a bowline knot are important abilities that camp teaches, I think the intangible lessons about respect, honesty, loving and living harmoniously with others and with nature are more vital. I hope to pass on what I learned as a camper through direct teaching and through setting the best example that I can.”

It looks to me as if the Onaway campers will be in great hands this summer. As these young women begin the next phase of their Onaway experience, the cycle continues and the Wendies of 2009 can start developing the qualities of an Onaway counselor. □

Anne Peterson Conolly

PARENT COLUMN

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE AN ONAWAY COUNSELOR?

*The counselors at Camp Onaway are mean as they can be.
They think of everything they can to torture you and me.
But someday I'll be old enough to be a counselor too
I'll be the meanest counselor that Camp Onaway ever knew!*

I clearly remember hearing these words sung, in 1968, on my first night as a camper. The happy facial expressions of my fellow campers led me to hope the song was a parody, but I wasn't really sure. From that night on, I regarded the brown-and-white-gingham-shirted counselors with awe and some fear (in particular, Miss Betsy Hurd, who read the beaning report every night. My name was on it without fail for the first month). To a young girl, away from home for the first time, all these "Misses" seemed wise and competent, yet often delightfully creative and fun, always worthy of respect.

Mañana, mañana, I'll be real nasty, just you wait and see!

The years flew by, and in 2003, after three summers as a camper and one as an aide, my daughter Katie put on that checkered shirt. She returned to the Onaway council for another three years. She agrees with my husband and me that, as great as the early years were, she learned the most, and grew the most, from being a counselor.



Miss Katie **Christenberry** with cousin Sarah Casey and Mom, Tibby **Bolton Christenberry**.

Katie now teaches music in an elementary school, and says, "I know I love what I do today because of what I discovered as a counselor at camp." When she first joined the Onaway council as a college student, she loved music but had not yet considered being a music teacher. She found herself in charge of the camp choir, and (as she says) being "surrounded by song" at Onaway propelled her toward her career. Following her first summer on the council, she returned to college as a music education major. She and her classmates began practice-teaching in local public schools, and her colleagues marveled at her comfort with her own authority. She told us, "I learned as a counselor what it meant to be in charge."

My niece, Bailey Rice, has been on the Onaway council since 2007. Her mother, my sister Tori, celebrates Bailey's learning

to write camper reports, communicate with parents ("Why didn't my daughter get her blue chevron?"), plan trips, and help young girls with the day-to-day responsibilities of camp, from showers to tidy bed-making. Bailey, an education major, said, "I really do believe that Onaway has provided all of us with a comfortable and supportive environment in which we can take risks and become confident leaders. With every summer I spend at Onaway, I think I learn a little more about myself and my abilities in teaching and working with others."



Counselor cousins: Miss Bailey **Rice**, Miss Kala **Bolton**, Miss Katie **Christenberry** (in front).

Another of my nieces, Kala Bolton, was a first-year counselor last summer, and she says it was the most rewarding summer of her life. Taking the girls on canoeing trips, she and Bailey (both of whom were canoeing counselors) had to make split-second decisions regarding the girls' safety. They recall their adventures with pride, feeling better suited to face the world as adults, due to the respect and authority they were accorded at Onaway. As a Wendies counselor, Kala had to learn to be almost a mother figure, dealing with homesickness, squabbles, and reminding the girls to brush their teeth. She tells of the challenge of being a role model for the girls 24/7, constantly focused on the tasks at hand. Kala says, "It's a tough job, but I learned so much from being in charge of so many young girls. I had such an amazing time as a camper, and I figured that it was my turn to return as a counselor and try to do my part in making the summers at Onaway for these girls as amazing as mine were when I was younger."

My sisters and I agree that, as wonderful as our counselors were, the Onaway counselors of today are generally better trained and more mature. All current counselors are of college age or older, whereas in my day some of us became counselors in high school, rather young for so much authority. My daughter says her summer as an Aide helped her to move comfortably into the counselor role, and my nieces who were OWLES tell me that this experience gave them much more confidence, particularly with regard to leading hiking and camping trips.

Thanks to Onaway for providing such confidence-building experiences at every stage of a growing girl's life—camper, aide, OWLE, and counselor! Maybe new words should be written:

Mañana, mañana, I'll be real grateful, just you wait and see! □

Tibby Bolton Christenberry

OBITUARY: ESTHER “RUSTY” MCCARTHY

The Onaway community has lost an old friend. Rusty McCarthy, Camp Nurse for 13 years in the 1960's and 1970's, died this past March in Minnesota, where she lived near her son Tom and his wife, Sue Piercy McCarthy. Rusty is also survived by her treasured granddaughter, Colleen McCarthy, and by her loyal Onaway nieces with surnames Bemis, D'Aignault and Rollison.

Rusty was dearly loved by campers, counselors and directors, and her son, Tom, reports that, “she always looked back on her summers at Camp Onaway as some of the happiest times in her life.” She certainly gave much of herself, as the following memories of two of her many admirers attest.

From Linda **Heller** Apte:

I have been thinking back on our days at Onaway with much affection. There was the feeling of family and security and a wee bit of discipline that emanated from Miss Stiles, who always made sure we tried our best and put our best foot forward. Miss Stiles knew Rusty, who had nursed a member of Miss Stiles' family, and turned to her when filling the position at the Infirmary. A wise choice



Rusty in 1965

it turned out to be on both their parts. Rusty was always on hand for bumps, bruises, and bee stings but also was available for emotions and tears with her firm but soothing way. She had a way of cheering a smile to a camper's or a counselor's face. She didn't miss a trick and no camper ever fooled her way out of a hike or out of swimming in chilly water. Miss Stiles, herself, when in need of consultation and direction, would seek out the wisdom of our nurse, Esther “Rusty” McCarthy.

Rusty settled in her retirement years in Ft. Myers Florida where my sister, Marilyn (**Heller**) Strong, and I were able to include her in our family lives and holidays. Then she moved closer to Tom and Sue's home in Minnesota near a lovely lake reminiscent of her days on Newfound Lake.

From Betsy **Haggett** Moschella:

My Aide year I was under doctor's orders to be isolated for 3 weeks because I had contracted mono! Upon my return

from Plymouth with the Pasquaney doc, Rusty ushered me into the infirmary - all no nonsense - and placed me in a back bedroom for the duration.

It turned out to be one of my better summers at camp despite my unhappy state. I gazed up at the *Saturday Evening Post* pictures on the wall and spoke through the window to my camp mates on the porch. Rusty tolerated the comings and goings of my friends who “visited” under her critical eye. She entertained me with her military experiences, slipped me books I requested from the library and set me to work cutting felt patches for Minor Awards night. She was kind and compassionate, and I slept listening to the clicking of her needles while she did her handwork. I rejoined the Onaway community the last week of camp, but not without a smile and backward glance at this infinitely kind woman with the gruff voice and gentle hands. □

Kathy Broderick Baird

If you wish to write to Rusty's son, his address is 1691 Chatham Avenue, Arden Hills, MN 55112.

NOTICE FROM THE CIRCLE PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

“Following six years of outstanding service, Elizabeth Beeson has stepped down as Executive Director of The Circle Program. We are tremendously grateful for her leadership of Circle during an important time of growth that included the construction of the camp on Spectacle Pond as well as the extension of the camp session and the addition of a Graduate Camp for the older girls. Elizabeth is a wonderful mentor to Circle girls and will continue to be involved with Circle for years to come.

The Circle Program welcomes Kathleen Kearns as our new Executive Director. Kathy's rich background in nonprofit leadership and management, fundraising, teaching and music makes her a wonderful leader for Circle as it



Incoming Executive Director Kathy Kearns and outgoing Director Elizabeth Beeson.

grows and expands to serve more NH girls each year. Kathy's most recent accomplishments as Executive Director of the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra in Boston, include management of a unique cooperative orchestra, serving as a

liaison between musicians, trustees, advisors, volunteers and staff; and direction of a music-based program for at-risk, inner-city youth, called “Back to Classical.” Kathy's love of music, teaching and mentoring youth, and building strong organizations that depend on and support community, will help us protect the ideals and mission of Circle in the coming years.”

Founded in 1993 by a dedicated group of Onaway trustees, Circle has served over 200 New Hampshire girls at-risk and is still growing. Onaway welcomes Kathy to the Lakes Region and looks forward to seeing her at Circle Camp and at the Onaway Fair this summer! To reach Kathy or to learn more about what's new at Circle, visit www.circleprogram.org.

ALUMNAE CORNER

The Howe Sisters: Making a Difference at Home and Abroad.

Caroline Howe:

When Natalie spent her first summer at Onaway, I asked her to send me a detailed schedule which I replicated as directly as I could at home. I spent an hour swimming around our pool, pretending I was doing “triangles,” and convinced friends to come and dance with me every Thursday afternoon. I made plays on my own, ate lunch as scheduled, and occasionally convinced my parents it would be fun to ring a bell and start dinner with “Johnny Appleseed”. When I made it to Onaway, however, I quickly learned that to follow in my sister’s footsteps, I needed to learn to make my own path!

Natalie is seven years older than I am, so I got an early start on many things through her and from Onaway – my sense of adventure, independence, creativity, friendship, and fierce love for nature. So when Natalie set off for Jordan as I started my senior year at Yale, it wasn’t a huge surprise for me or my parents. And while my parents questioned my decision to move to India after my graduation, again they weren’t surprised.

Natalie Howe:

On her way to India after Christmas 2007, Caro took a long stopover to visit me in Jordan. I’d gone there to help start up the science curriculum and labs for a new school, a boarding school that would bring students together from across the Middle East. The teachers there were brought together by the same vision – the vision that taught so many at Onaway – that by living with those who are different from us, we can learn so much more about the world and ourselves.

When I’d arrived in Jordan, I’d had no idea what I was getting in to. It had all the craziness and excitement of a first year of teaching. When Caroline came to visit, I’d been living there for a year and a half and wanted to show her around like a seasoned local, which I was surely not. In Jordan, single white women always stand out.

I like the Onaway idea of having the kids be “flowerpots,” not worrying about what

they wear, but in Jordan, I thought about how to dress all the time. Even in the summertime, most Jordanian men and women wore clothes to their wrists and ankles. Most women in Jordan wore pretty, colorful headscarves, and some wore headscarves with sequins that sparkled brilliantly in the sunshine. Hardly any women in Jordan covered their faces too, but there were a few, and in spite of our efforts at cultural sensitivity, my friend Alena and I admitted to each other that ladies whose eyes we couldn’t see made us a little nervous. So we instituted a policy to smile at those ladies when they passed us, hoping they’d be smiling back behind their veils. On the bus one day, I sat next to one such lady. We started talking, and it turned out she had such a sweet voice! She was a student, and we talked about our schools, and our families, and our conversation made me feel glad to have taken the chance to smile.

Caroline:

After working on green building standards with cities across India and helping the country’s biggest IT company design an energy-efficient and ecologically vibrant new campus, I took a leap of faith and chose to follow my dreams to the limits. I started a new project, raised money to support myself and our vision, and believed that we could do the impossible – drive electric cars across India to create, communicate, and celebrate the solutions to climate change. I, along with other Indian Youth Climate Network members and a solar powered band called Solar Punch, traveled more than 3500 kilometers in solar plug-in electric cars and vegetable oil fueled trucks in a Climate Solutions Road Tour.

The trip took place in January ’09 and was a month of climate communication – sharing solutions in clean tech showcases, empowering youth in leadership training programs, and using art, dance, movies and music to communicate the message in as many ways as possible. We met farmers practicing sustainable agriculture, who are increasing their yields and income and reducing their carbon footprint;



Caroline (far right) and Natalie (2nd from right) with their mother and the car.

entrepreneurs who are designing innovative solar systems; and CEOs committed to changing their business strategy for the new world. We ended the tour by meeting the President of India, India’s Olympians and India’s biggest rock band (separately!).

The support of my family throughout all of this was so important, and nothing helped me more than the confidence I developed at Onaway. I have sung “Give Yourself to Love” to so many people across India (crying every time...) and repeated “We are not here to play, to dream, to drift” reminding myself that dreams are not something to remain in the clouds, but something to fight for and follow to the ends of the Earth! I may not have followed my sister’s footsteps to Jordan, but I am so glad that I followed her footsteps in creating my own path!

Natalie:

Since returning to the United States, I’m working for the Park Service coordinating volunteers for invasive plant management. I realize that I am drawn to working in environmental fields because I feel like it’s a good arena for calmness. On the other hand, Caroline’s passion for her work seems to stem from the actions for change she can make and can inspire other people to help generate. Onaway has always had the scope to nurture and appreciate both types of ladies – and both sides of every woman. As so many alumnae have said, Onaway also helped us build the confidence to blaze our own trails in pursuit of our dreams. □

Natalie and Caroline Howe

DO YOU HAVE A FUTURE ONAWAY CAMPER AT YOUR HOUSE?

Although it is never predictable, some years camp fills up early and a space may not be available when your daughter is ready. Please be sure to let us know well in advance of the summer she plans to attend so that her registration is in the file. Contact the winter office for further information.

Onaway Rentals 2009

Hollister House



Weekly rates: (Saturday to Saturday)
June 1st - 27th \$ 800
June 27th - September 7th \$1350
September 7th - October 31st \$ 800
Reservation Deposit \$250.

Northpoint Cabin



Weekly rate: (Tuesday to Tuesday) \$400
Reservation Deposit \$100.

Call the winter office
518-443-0004
for availability.

ALUMNAE NEWS

News of the 40s

Anne Carter Peck Zadig has moved to New Haven, Conn. She is looking forward to driving her granddaughter Isabel Langen to camp this summer.

News of the 50s

Bobbi Childs Sampson couldn't make it to the Onaway reunion in Andover, Mass. in March because she was trekking around the Torres de Paines in southern Chile with her husband. She decided that it, "Really will be too far away."

Leslie Dahl writes, "In 1951 on a Friday the 13th, Julie Peck and I wrote the log for the day as a black cat called Lucky...I never did get back to Camp Onaway, never heard the song, "Oh camp girl, we welcome you", never was able to send my darling daughter to experience all that dear Onaway has to offer. However, it doesn't make the memory any less treasured." Leslie married a Norwegian that she met through the American Scandinavian Foundation Jr. group in NYC in 1962 and they have lived outside of Copenhagen, Denmark since the fall of that same year. She has two sons and a daughter, all married, and also eight grandchildren - 5 girls and 3 boys.

Caroline Morgan Southall hosted Onaway alumnae for lunch in Freeport.



Back row: : Weesie **Stengel** Barton, Caroline **Morgan** Southall, Cordie **Southall**, Sarah **Southall** Crowley with JB
Front row: : Patty **Rockensies** with Andie, Gretchen **Giumarro** Kelly and her son, Elaine **Carlson**.

The husband of Margot Morin Gillis, a counselor from 51-53, writes that Margot passed away in August of 2007. "She loved Onaway and dance."

Tia Streeter Smith writes that, "Life is good." She sold her gallery last August and immediately left on a walking tour

of Corsica and Sardinia, ending in Rome. She has reinvigorated her custom card business, and her dog Amy adds to the circle.

Olivia Barbour Tarleton muses that she cannot believe that it was 50 years ago that she was a camper at Onaway. She sends her best to all the campers in her cabin group!

News of the 60s

Michelle LaMedica Fennell was chosen to design and paint a Christmas ornament for the White House Christmas tree. She painted four historical scenes located in District 1



Michelle **LaMedica**
Fennell

of New Hampshire: Prescott Park, the Lakes Region, Wentworth Coolidge Mansion, and Strawberry Banke. The ornament also features the state seal at the bottom and John Stark's famous words, "Live Free or Die" at the top. Michelle lives with her husband Peter and dog Tango in Kensington, N.H. Her landscape oil paintings are featured in several galleries. She also teaches oil painting classes to adults and children.

Helen Gray Rom shares that her daughter Holly was married in July 2008 and works and lives in Denver, Colo.

Marilyn (Kim Heller) Strong is a registered nurse and Reiki Master. Through her two ventures (www. WaterVigor.com and www. healthyluscious.com) she "Brings health enhancing ideas to the world."

Phyllis Woestemeyer spent a few days on Newfound Lake at the Hollister House as a guest of Mrs. Warner W. Kent Jr. (40s) this summer.

News of the 70s

Sara Egan Hebert loves living in South Berwick, Maine. She and her husband Ted have two children: Jessica (11) and Will (10); Jessica is looking forward to attending Onaway in 2010.

Sara volunteers at her children's school and does some contract work for an executive recruiting firm. She would love to hear from alumnae. (Please call or email the winter office for Sara's contact information.)



Sara and friends at camp in the 70's.

Meredith Funston, an executive search consultant, launched her website: www.meredithfunston.com this winter. Her firm provides search consulting to corporate and nonprofit organizations to help them recruit the talent they need in mid-level and senior positions.

Nancy Winship Milliken received her Masters Degree in Fine Arts this year from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. You can see her work at www.nancymilliken.com.

Sara Pilling writes that her daughter Kris Harvey Rouff is married, has two wonderful daughters ages 6 and 8, a fine career, and for the last seven years waged war with courage with three forms of blood cancer.

News of the 80s

Patricia Arno writes, "I enjoyed the summers I worked as the camp nurse and before that, as the arts counselor when my daughters Andrea and Kit were campers!" Patricia retired from nursing three years ago and hopes that her granddaughter will be a camper at Onaway soon.

Catherine DeLaura left her job as a New York City Public School Principal and moved to the Dominican Republic to start a Bed & Breakfast and Sport Fishing company www.casadoradodr.com. She recently became the Executive Director of the DREAM Project in Cabarete, D.R. The DREAM Project is an educational non-profit that works on early childhood education in the public schools (www.dominicandream.org). The organization works with volunteers from many countries and has a year-long program for recent college graduates.

Kinley Doucette is back in Costa Rica but may return to New York City.

Anne Frost is living in San Francisco, Calif. where she has a gardening business. She enjoys reconnecting with Onaway alumnae on Facebook.

Marion Greene married Bart Cannon in Hanover, N.H. this past August. They live in Minneapolis, Minn.

Suzanne Enck Lindner and her husband announce the birth of their second son, Bode Benezet Lindner on February 13, 2009. "He was 3 ½ weeks early, but healthy as can be!" Bode joins big brother Franklin (2). Suzanne and her family have recently moved from Wisconsin to Maine and she looks forward to catching up with old friends now that she's back on the east coast!

Sarah Clements Page and her husband Steve happily welcomed their second son, Owen William, in September, 2008. Owen joins big brother Mason (3). The Page family lives in Stoughton, Mass.

Barrie Pendergast had a baby boy, William Graves Stambaugh on November 29, 2008. Older sister Abby (5 ½) is thrilled, as are the proud parents.

Elisa Vocca is almost finished with her first year of classes for the Physician Assistant program at the University of New England. Next year she will complete her clinic work and will graduate in 2010.



Elisa Vocca with Sophie.

Heather Seasonwein Walker gave birth to son Samuel Walker on November 5, 2008. Sam has an older brother Randell who turned two in September. Heather and her family live in Freeport, Maine and enjoy seeing Caroline Morgan Southall (50s).

News of the 90s

Mai Abdulhadi spent 2007 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada skiing and working. She has been in the Middle East for a year and is leaving Dubai for Jerusalem, Palestine for another full year of adventure.

Niki Dembitz is in her second year at the Harvard Business School.

Nina Fink and Ashley Garver spent Thanksgiving at Big Sur, Calif. with friends. Nina writes, "The living is easy in California!"



Ashley Garver and Nina Fink at Big Sur.

Arin Lucarelli is graduating from West Virginia University in May with a Masters in Elementary Education grades K-6 with a specialization in Science grades 5-9 and hoping to find a job in West Virginia. This summer she will be working for a summer camp program through Boparc, the park system in Morgantown, WV, leading students in outdoor adventure activities.



New Hampshire alumnae, Jen Crane, Leigh Bulkeley, Sarah Crane, Arin and Liz Lucarelli, gather at Christmas.

Jessie MacLeod did a fellowship in Historical Deerfield (Mass.) and has been working at the New Haven Historical Society in Connecticut since graduating from Yale this past May.

Sara Martin is living in Somerville, Mass. and attending Lesley University. She is working towards her Masters Degree in Expressive Therapy.

Jennifer Plante (Miss JP) enjoys life in West Hollywood, Calif. She's been doing lots of writing, acting and producing of short videos for online/downloadable content. She appears in a children's DVD that is available online and in stores called "Dottie's Magic Pockets." When not acting, she is a computer consultant for a company called LA IT Girl and is the network administrator for Hebrew Union College. Jennifer



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visited with Lizza Miller (80s) in Seattle last fall.

Gevvie **Stone** watched Lindsay **Crevoiserat** (2000s) run a 5.01 minute mile to take third place in the New England high school indoor track championship in March. Meredith **Funston** (70s) and her daughter Catherine **Ostholtz** (2000s) were also cheering on Lindsay, as was Lindsay's mother Blakeley **Brown Crevoiserat** (70s). Gevvie also recently had dinner with Liz Clark (90s.)

Virginia (Gigi) **Tuten** married Caleb Kuhnman on September 27, 2008. They reside in New York City.

Kaitlin **Walsh** will be graduating from Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts with a degree in Producing for Film and Television in May. After graduation, she is moving to Los Angeles, Calif.

Annie **Stover** is engaged to be married to Evan Reece. Evan proposed

while backcountry skiing in Tahoe. Former Director, "Mrs. S." is performing the ceremony which will be held in the Adirondacks.



Annie **Stover** with fiancé, Evan Reece.

News of the 2000s

Caroline **Howe's** work in India (see article page 9) was recognized by Thomas Friedman who took both an interest and a ride in Caroline's car. To read his article in The New York Times, go to the following link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/opinion/15friedman.html>.

Heather **Murphy** graduated in December from New Hampshire Technical Institute with an Associate's Degree in General Studies as well as a Special Education Certificate. She enjoys taking Zumba classes at the gym with her brother and sister.

Catherine **Ostholtz** sings with the Concord Chorale. The group performed A Celebration of Handel & Haydn in March and are rehearsing for a May performance of Broadway Pops.

Lucy **Rice**, Clare **Humphrey** and Catherine **Blessing**, who all attend Vanderbilt University, had dinner together in December to celebrate the end of the first semester.

Allie **Smith** is participating in the Disney College Program this spring.

Jen **Smith** and her fiancé David have set a wedding date of January 23, 2010. The wedding will be held at Walt Disney World where Jen has been interning part-time.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

We still need your help! We are just past the half-way mark in our fiscal year, and while we are also past the half-way mark to our goal, we still have a substantial amount to raise.

Please add your support to the Annual fund.

GOAL: \$90,000

Amount to date: \$57,912

Number of Gifts: 252

Still needed to raise: \$32,088

Closing date – September 30, 2009

These funds help make up the funds that tuition does not provide for the running of camp.
Some scholarships are also awarded from the Annual Fund.



A Promise, a Vow Not to Forget: A 2003 CD of Camp Onaway Songs

You can purchase an Onaway CD by sending your check in the amount of \$23.00 which will cover postage and handling to: Regan Horike, P.O. Box 4064, Albany, NY 12204. Please be sure to give Regan your mailing address.