



Web Tools Workshop & Annual Business/Camp Networking Luncheon & Event Highlight January 14th Schedule

Business Member CIEE (Council for International Educational Exchange) is hosting Maine Summer Camps' winter meetings and events on January 14, 2014, in their beautiful headquarters at 300 Fore Street in Portland, ME. Katie Harrigan of CIEE is thrilled to have the MSC camps attend the event.

Events for the day are free, but pre-registration is required.

The morning begins with **Helpful Web Tools Every Camp Should Know About**, presented by Chris Wentworth, Camp Wyonegonic's Operations Coordinator & Webmaster. Learn about cool web tools (many are free) that can help you stay organized, save you time, and help you connect and collaborate more easily with staff in the off-season.

Lunch, generously sponsored by CIEE, begins at noon, and is followed immediately by the **Annual Business/Camp Networking Event**, a fast paced and fun opportunity for vendors and camps to informally meet & greet and do some business. To register for any of these events, go to mainecamps.org/events-training, or call 207-518-9557 for information.

5th Annual Southern Maine Camp Fair March 16, 2014

Hundreds of families will attend the upcoming Southern Maine Camp Fair on Sunday, March 16, 2014, sponsored by Maine Summer Camps. 70 camps will exhibit and be on hand to speak with parents and children about their programs. The camp fair has been a huge success over the past 5 years, allowing parents from all over southern Maine to see many camp offerings in one setting.

The fair is held at the East End Community School, 195 North St. Portland, ME. from 1- 4 p.m. On-line registration for camps will be announced in mid-January. The fair is advertised through radio ads, print media, and 10,000 notices send out to parents in 26 southern Maine school districts. For more information, contact Maine Summer Camps, 207-518-9557.

Enhancing Features @ mainecamps.org

The Maine Summer Camps website has several new features. The new **camp map** will help parents locate where camps are within the state and where they are in relation to brother/sister camps, vacation spots, or to their cousin Joe's hometown!

To better accommodate the many people who now visit our site on mobile devices, the site is being re-tooled for **mobile accessibility**, which should be completed by January 2014.

In early 2014, member camps will be invited to **submit a video** for posting on their camp's web page in the MSC searchable camp directory listing.

The MSC "**camp app**" also is available as free for your mobile device; find the icon on the MSC home page: www.mainecamps.org



Cat Sangster (Wawenock) after the 2013 Business Networking event

**Maine Summer Camps:
Workshop, Luncheon &
Business/Camp Networking Event
Tues., January 14, 2014**

CIEE, 300 Fore St. Portland, ME

Free. You must pre-register.

10:30 – 12 noon	Helpful Web Tools Workshop
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch, courtesy of CIEE
12:30 - 2 pm	Business Networking Event



Mad Science Camp experiments draw a crowd at the 2013 Camp Fair

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Presidents Column



Andy Lilienthal

May the warmth of the holidays still be radiating deep within you and the jingle of bells softly ringing in your ears.

There is much to be thankful for as we turn the calendar over and begin the year anew. As this will be the last column that I write with Mary Ellen at the helm, I first want to acknowledge how thankful I am for the breadth and depth of her contribution to MSC and the joy I have had working with her. After 12 years

of skillful guidance, MSC and MYCA have evolved, and are still evolving, into the recognized bodies in Maine that effectively advocate for Maine's summer camps while building excellence among the talented and visionary cadre of professionals that deliver formative, and even crucial programming to thousands of children every year. Like many camps, the character of our organization starts at the top, so thank you Mary Ellen, you are a gleaming diamond among the rough stones of humanity.

I am also thankful to be surrounded by so many positive, visionary and kind people that you are. There is much good that comes from learning from each other and although it is tempting to feel that it is easier to do it alone, especially in "up" cycles, I am thankful for the reservoir of talent among our members and for the dedication that so many of you have shown in keeping MSC dynamic, responsive and meaningful.

During this time when many of our camps sleep and we slowly look toward the inevitable change of seasons that may feel far away, I hope you will feel thankful for all the good you have created in the world. Despite the noise that erupts as voices vie to be heard, I am thankful for the strong, consistent, quiet whisper that reminds me (and I hope you) that life at the core is simple and what we do is really not that complicated.

Humans mark changes. As the a new year emerges from the old and we reunite with people we care for and say goodbye to others, let us be thankful that we work in a profession that is about realizing and promoting the good in young people. I hope 2014 will be the best year of each of your lives.

The 2014 Directory of Maine Summer Camps is printed and on its way to our members. For additional copies, contact the MSC office at camps@mainecamps.org

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Submissions and articles welcome!

Legislative and Government Affairs

News from the Maine Youth Camp Association

MYCA is the sister organization to Maine Summer Camps. It focuses on governmental relations for summer camps in Maine. It is a 501c4 non-profit. For more information, contact MYCA at 207-518-9557.



Maine Legislative Update

The Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature will convene on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 for a “short” session, adjourning April 16. The session is limited to “emergency” items; after the Legislative Council (leadership) vetted some 399 bill titles, 300 were denied, leaving about 90 new bills to be debated this session. Through an appeals process a number of the previously denied bills will be reconsidered and added to the list.

Tax Expenditure Task Force

In December, the Legislature’s Tax Expenditure Task Force assembled for its final meeting to identify \$40 million in new revenues. Ultimately, the Task Force adjourned without developing a consensus report. Regardless of the Task Force’s final report, any tax changes will have to be adopted by the Legislature next year. If \$40 million in new revenues are not enacted next year, whatever amount is lacking is slated to be taken from municipal revenue sharing to ensure a balanced budget.

Maine’s Cap on Itemized Deductions

Maine non-profits, including camps, face a legislative issue this session. In the last legislative session, Maine’s Biennial budget included a \$27,500 cap on itemized deductions, including the charitable giving deduction. This stands to harm the charitable income prospects for all Maine non-profits. Charitable tax deductions are not the only reason itemizers give to charity, but they do allow for larger and more gifts. A recent report by the U.S. Trust states that 45 percent of donors said they would reduce giving if the income tax deduction were changed. It is estimated that this cap would eliminate the charitable giving incentive for all Maine itemizers with income over \$200,000.

Maine’s non-profit camps successfully participated in a recent call-in effort to include LR 2617 on the list of bills to be heard starting in January; LR 1617 would carve the charitable giving deduction out of the overall cap, preserving a tax deduction that benefits the greater good.

Steve Sudduth in Line for ACA/NE Leadership



Steve Sudduth, current president of MYCA, the governmental relations association of summer camps, will be stepping up this Spring to become the President of the board of ACA/New England.

Steve says, “Since returning to the youth camping industry in 1993, my appreciation for the value of personal service to ACA and youth camping continues to grow. I believe I can make a positive impact

at an executive level. I enjoy challenging myself and others to make youth camping a better experience and a pertinent component of youth development. I enjoy projecting current decisions into future outcomes.”

It is always a special event (and source of pride) when one of our own Maine camp directors takes over the leadership of the regional ACA.

Congratulations Steve!

Passages & Milestones

Toni Carros is retiring from the Girl Scouts of Maine after a 33 year career that included at various times, Camp Director, Membership Manager, Outdoor Program Specialist, Outdoor Program and Property Director, Resource Management Director for Fund Development, PR, & the scout shop -- along with several other hats along the way. Best wishes, Toni!

James Lawrence of Readfield, ME passed away peacefully in March of 2012. His father built Camp Menatoma in 1926 and James directed the boys camp from 1951 until it closed in 1976. He also was a past board member and President of MYCA in the 1970’s.

Welcome New Camp Members

Outdoor Adventure Camp

Contact: Valerie Lawson, 10 Commissary Point Road, Trescott Twp, ME 04652. Email: outdoor.adventure@cclc.me. (207) 733-2233. Day-Private Non-Profit.

Camp Kennebec becomes The National Veterans Family Center



On April 10th, 2012, US Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills of Maine on patrol during his third tour of duty in Afghanistan, placed his pack on the ground, detonating a hidden IED (improvised explosive device). Four days later, on his 25th birthday, he awoke in a hospital to discover the blast that tore through his frame resulted in the losing portions of both legs and both arms. Travis is only the fourth

quadruple amputee from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive his injuries.

Travis's dream is to provide a camp in Maine as a recreation center for disabled veterans and their families in a way

that is affordable to veterans, with need-based scholarships available. He envisioned a place where veterans will unite with the land, the water, nature, and each other, be united, enriched and inspired, and learn they can still enjoy the activities that revitalize the courage and the confidence to keep moving forward.

Travis's dream has become a reality; in partnership with the Bread of Life Ministries of Augusta, the National Veterans Family Center has been established at the former Camp Kennebec (now operating as the Maine Golf & Tennis Academy, MGTA). A goal of the Center is to renovate the summer camp into a 4-season fully accessible center that is affordable for veterans and their families in perpetuity. MGTA will continue to provide its summer camp program during the summer months.

For more information: www.VeteransFamilyCamp.com



Camp Ketcha Powers GEARHUB

Camp Ketcha has launched the Portland Gear Hub, is a non-profit program powered by Ketcha and the Community Bike Center. GearHub is located in the downtown

Portland YMCA. This community & youth development program offers reused, recycled and re-purposed outdoor gear and equipment for rent and sale. They will also be open to the community for member organizations, households and individuals to rent low cost gear. <http://portlandgearhub.org> 207-883-8977 ext 104

Darrow Trip Camp Closes

After 56 years of operation, the Darrow Foundation Board voted this year to close the camp permanently. Darrow Wilderness Canoe Camp was founded in 1957 by George and Janie Darrow. Since then, Darrow Camp has operated from "The Birches," an island on West Grand Lake in Washington County, Maine. The Camp offered young people wilderness canoe trips through the remote waterways of Maine and Eastern Canada. At its height in the '70's they had over 70 kids out on the trail at one time scattered over Maine and Quebec. This experience has positively influenced, and occasionally, radically changed, the lives of young people over the years.

The camp sold off its canoes and equipment this past summer and held a celebration of the life of the camp at a gathering of alumni, parents, staff, and campers on July 20th. Executive Director Andy Buckman says "this is sad in many ways; we have had a good run, and though Darrow Camp is gone, the Darrow Community will certainly live on."



Gary Forster Fall Workshop A Huge Hit!

In September 2013, Maine Summer Camps sponsored a day of workshops by Gary Forster for camp professionals titled, "A Way to Focus your Marketing, Program and Facilities Decisions to Fill Your Camp." The workshops drew over 70

attendees. Forster stressed the importance of creating ways to engage campers in face to face interactions, especially in a world where mobile devices are so prevalent. He presented many examples of program and facilities changes that foster this kind of interaction.

Following the workshops, Gary wrote an article that incorporated the teachings from the sessions called, *Making Camp Sticky*. A copy was sent to all who attended. The article can be downloaded at <http://www.garyforster.com/documents/Make-Camp-Sticky.pdf>

Special thanks to Acadia Insurance for hosting the event and to Key Bank for hosting the luncheon.

Business Member Directory

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February 17, 18, 19 9 a.m. - 6:15 pm, \$285

OR

April 21, 22, 23 9 a.m. - 6:15 pm, \$285

Includes American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers, and First Aid. Prerequisites apply.

Registration: 207-795-4050, www.ymcamaine.org

Wilderness First Aid & First Responder Camp Chewonki - Wiscasset, ME

Please note: Courses fill quickly.

January 2-5, 2014

Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA)
taught by Wilderness Medical Associates
Cost: \$400, \$525 with room and board.

For trip leaders, outdoor professionals and outdoor enthusiasts who want sound strategies for dealing with emergency medical situations in wilderness settings. WMA courses are widely considered the most complete medical training for outdoor professionals.

January 7-10, 2014

WAFA to WFR Bridge (Wilderness First Responder)
taught by Wilderness Medical Associates
Cost: \$400, \$525 with room and board.

The WAFA to WFR Bridge course upgrades the WMA™ Wilderness Advanced First Aid to a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) in 4 days. This course must be taken within three years of receiving the Wilderness Medical Associates' WAFA certificate. The WFR is the definitive medical training course for all outdoor professionals and enthusiasts.

NOTE: Full Wilderness First Responder Course, January 2-10, 2014. Tuition for those taking both courses for WFR certification: \$675, or \$900 with full room and board.

A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due upon registration for either course.

To register: http://www.chewonki.org/vacations/wilderness_medicine.asp. Questions, contact Greg Shute 207-882-7323 x129

Need Summer Camp Staff?

Unity College

Environmental Career/Job Fair

February 5, 2014

10 am - 1:00 pm

Unity College, Tozier Gym, Unity, ME

Free to businesses/camps

Skype option is also available

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Summer Camp is Big Business

How to be Successful in a Growing Dynamic Industry

Summer camps have been around for 150 years and Maine has been an epicenter of the industry. Today, the camping world is going through tremendous change. Whether you are already a camp professional or want to be one, this course will give you insight into different aspects of the business. From broad aspects of how to establish camp goals and culture to micro-issues involving programming and human resources, this course will give you tools to help you be more successful. Led by Andy Lilienthal, a third generation camp owner and current president of the Maine Youth Camping Foundation, this will be a seminar style class where expert guest speakers will appear and participant input is encouraged. 22 hours.

Tuesdays: January 28 - April 15 (no class 2/4)
5:30 - 7:30 pm Course Fee: \$145

Class will meet on the SMCC South Portland Campus.

To register please call (207) 741-5758.

Payment due at registration.



Hold the Date! October 22, 2014

For a workshop with Rick Stryker
Sponsored by Maine Summer Camps

National camp expert will present sessions on Principles of Leadership, Environmental Impact of Daily Camp Operations, and Ask An Engineer.

Location: Acadia Insurance, Westbrook, ME



Spotlight:

Camp Laughing Loon

In the winter of 1917 the new York County YWCA was given land on Little Ossipee Lake in East Waterboro Maine for the purpose of establishing a residential summer camping experience for young women. Under the direction of the board of directors and Miss Vergn E. Hewes of Saco, a teacher at the Waynflete School in Portland, the first summer of Camp Laughing Loon began.

The first year, campers and counselors...slept outdoors on mounds of fresh--mowed hay.

During the first year of operation for the camp, the campers and counselors all slept outdoors on mounds of fresh-mowed hay. It was also in that first year that the campers held a contest to name the camp and the moniker of Camp Laughing Loon was chosen.

Over the years, the camp put up tents, purchased several cottages on the lake and built the lodge. Some of the most exciting changes at the camp were when it got electricity at the end of the 1920s, when it got running water in the mid-1930s and in the 1950s when it got its first industrial, electric dishwasher. The camp miraculously survived the ravages of the wildfires in 1947 and Hurricane Carol in 1953.

With Miss Hewes, the director until 1968, the camp continued to thrive and often accommodated more than 100 girls per week during the 1950's. In the 1970's though, the cost of running residential camps greatly increased and enrollment began to drop off. The camp closed for one year and in 1978 it became a YWCA day camp for girls *and* boys. Under the capable direction for the past 29 years of Ms. Deborah Harriman of Buxton, elementary school teacher in the RSU57 school district, Camp Laughing Loon has just successfully completed its 95th season. Although ownership has changed a few times over the years, the camp has operated under it's original name for 95 years, making it one of Maine's oldest continuously operating camps.

The camp currently operates as a 501c3 non-profit organization and is no longer a YWCA program. Still a camp steeped in tradition, Camp Laughing Loon continues to impact and shape the lives of young people in York County. It's dedicated all-volunteer board of directors, exceptional director, enthusiastically experienced summer counselors and valuable teen volunteers strive to provide a quality day camp experience for children ages 7-12 throughout the York County area.

The camp season runs for 8-weeks during the summer months from 9am – 4pm with transportation provided from Biddeford, Saco and Dayton. Campers may enroll for the entire summer or as many weeks as they desire. The camp is committed to providing a safe, healthy and fun environment for children to have the unique experience of attending a traditional summer day camp on beautiful Little Ossipee Lake.

Laughing Loon fosters creativity, environmental awareness through its nature program, and teaches swimming

Featuring member camps in order of founding dates

Camp Laughing



Loon

instruction and water safety skills. Camp gives children the opportunity to interact with peers from other communities in an environment that develops socialization skills, self-esteem, and team building. It is also the goal of Camp Laughing Loon to provide opportunities for our campers to become life-long learners, independent thinkers and responsible citizens. Day camp also provides working families with a healthy and stimulating alternative to traditional day care.

The staff spends a great deal of time developing projects that stimulate the body and mind. It is our goal to instill a sense of responsibility, cooperation, appreciation of the environment and socialization skills that will be used throughout the campers' childhood, adolescent and adult lives. --Thanks to Jean Leach, board member and a former Laughing Loon director



Laughing Loon Counselors, 1920's



Maine Youth Camping Foundation
dba Maine Summer Camps
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January 14, 2014: Camp/Business Networking Event & Luncheon, Web Tools Workshop

Calendar of Events

Save the Date!

January 14, 2014, Tuesday

Business Member Networking Event & Winter Board Meeting & Fellowship. Location TBA.

February 5-8, 2014

ACA National Conference, Orlando, FL

March 29, 2014, Saturday

At ACA New England Conference: Semi Annual Membership Meeting, MSC & MYCA. Manchester NH

April 29, 2014, Tuesday

Board meeting only. SYSCO Food Show, Portland, ME.

June 4, 2014, Wednesday

MSC/MYCA Annual Meetings. Details TBA

July 8, 2014, Tuesday

Dr. Christopher Thurber Staff Trainings, Wawenock

July 16, 2014, Wednesday

10th Annual Norway Savings/MSA Spelling Bee, Portland, ME

July 21-25, 2014, Monday - Friday

Junior Maine Guide Test Camp, Oquossoc, ME

September 17, 2014, Wednesday

Quarterly MSC Board Meeting. Location TBA

October 22, 2014, Wednesday

Rick Stryker workshop. Acadia Insurance.

Welcome

New Business Members

Dale Rand Printing: Contact: Michael Galli, 104 Washington Avenue, Portland, ME 04101.

Email: galli@maine.rr.com. (207) 773-8198. *Commercial printers. Stationary, cards, posters, brochures, flyers and books.*

OLTOA-Outdoor Leader Trainers of America: Contact: Bob Myron, 15 Victory Lane, Durham, ME 04222. Email:

bobmyron@live.com. (207) 720-0257. *Quality instruction for Outdoor Leaders. Maine Guide Courses, American Canoe Association instructor certification, customized staff training.*

Tide's Edge Design: Contact: Linda Lundborg, 5 Mason St, Falmouth, ME 04105 (207) 781-7085, linda@tidesedgedesign.com, www.tidesedgedesign.com *Creative engaging graphic design for educators, small businesses, and book publishers. Marketing brochures, identity and promotion, history-related books.*