

Three-Step Plan to Being Your Best This Summer

Camp Wawenock's Kristy Harvey offers wellness tips

In early June 2020, in my role as the Assistant Director at Camp Wawenock, I was helping prepare to open Camp under uncertain and often overwhelming circumstances. I was also grappling with what working at Camp during a global pandemic would mean for me personally, as a wife, a sister, a daughter, and dog mom. "Wellness" and "self-care" are phrases we now use to describe what Camp Directors have known to be true for generations: a tired and worn-out person is not going to be capable of giving their best. Rest hour exists for a reason!

While the culture of wellness varies from camp to camp, it exists in some form for all of us. With Wawenock's 2020 COVID-19 procedures, many of my tried-and-true methods of taking care of myself weren't going to be possible.

I can happily report that in 2020 I didn't just survive Camp, I thrived. For the Wawenock camp family, and for me personally, 2020 was arguably the most fulfilling summer I've had in my 21 summers of being a camper, counselor, and now assistant director. COVID-19 taught us how to identify the essential elements and core values of our camp events, traditions, and activities and how to preserve and adapt those elements in the time of cohorts, masks, and social distancing. As emerging camp professionals, we should prepare to take care of ourselves this summer in a similar way. What is essential for you, not just as a camp professional, but as a whole person, to thrive? So, while you're planning for Camp this Spring and wearing your Assistant Director, Program Director, or Head Counselor hat, why not also take the time to plan and prepare for caring for the other aspects of your identity? Here are three steps that helped me last summer, and that may help you identify and put in place a plan to be your best self this summer and into the future.

Step 1: Reflect

As we get closer to summer, take intentional time to reflect about who you are and what you need. Questions like: "What am I thankful for?" "When do I feel most rested?" "What



Kristy Andrews Harvey

Kristy Andrews Harvey chairs MSC's Community Connections Group. She began her camping experience as a camper at residential girls Camp Wawenock, continuing through many different seasonal roles. After graduating from Bates College, Kristy taught abroad and then returned to Maine to pursue her passion for camp by becoming a year-round camp professional. Kristy is a member of ACA New England's EPIC Group, where this piece originally appeared.

brought me joy today?" "Who lifts me up?" will illuminate the path toward genuinely rejuvenating self-care. For me, and in classic introvert fashion, the key to showing up as my best self is time alone to recharge.

Step 2: Logistics

After identifying your need (in my case, being alone), consider how to fulfill this need within the framework of your camp's Covid protocols. In a pre-Covid summer, I would escape to my house, which luckily is only 45 minutes from Camp and was the guaranteed mental distance I needed to recharge. It was just enough time to see my husband, take a nap (or binge watch TV), and eat something delicious I couldn't get at Camp. Knowing that option wouldn't be available to me in 2020, I knew that I needed to find a space and time that could be just for me while at Camp. I also bought every possible snack item I might want for seven weeks and stockpiled them in my cabin. (I'm only sort of kidding).

Three Step Plan continues on page 3.

In this issue

Going Virtual: MSC Reworks Networking Event	4
MSC Leaders Recognized with ACA Awards	8
MSC Level Ground Initiative News	13

Maine Summer Camps Board of Directors 2020-2021

President: Beigette Gill, *Fernwood Cove*
Immediate Past President: Catriona Logan Sangster, *Wawenock*
Vice President: Matt Pines *Maine Teen Camp*
Secretary: Terri Mulks, *Camp Susan Curtis*
Treasurer: Fritz Seving, *Fernwood*
Garth Altenburg, *Timanous*
Rich Deering, *Birch Rock Camp for Boys*
Mike Douglass, *Bishopswood*
Anna Hopkins, *Friends Camp*
Alex Jackson, *Camp Runoia*
Kathy Jonas, *Walden*
Peter Kassen, *Hidden Valley*
Mike Katz, *Camp Sunshine – Membership Chair*
Andy Lilienthal, *Winnebago*
Mark Lipof, *Micah*
Karen Malm, *Camp Agawam*
Laura Ordway, *Winona*
Spencer Ordway, *Winona*
Arleen Shepherd, *Skylemar*
Lisa Tripler, *Kamp Kohut*
Liz Tully, *Ketcha*

Appointed & Ex-Officio Members

Business Representatives:
Jim Chalmers, *Chalmers Insurance*
Jack Day, *Norway Savings Bank*
Counsel - Jack Erler
Executive Director - Ron Hall, Maine Summer Camps
MSC Historian - Henry Paul Johnson

Maine Youth Camp Association (MYCA) Board of Directors 2020-2021

President: Laura Ordway, *Winona*
Vice President: Peter Hirsch, *Androscoggin*
Treasurer and Past President: Steve Sudduth, *Wynegonic*
Secretary: Tom Doherty, *Camp Ketcha*
Mary Ellen Deschenes, *Girl Scouts of Maine*
Tracy St. Onge, *The Summer Camp*
Fritz Seving, *Fernwood*
Norm Thombs, *Mechuwana*
Jack Erler, *Counsel*
Ron Hall, *Maine Summer Camps*



Published by Maine Summer Camps
A membership association for Maine youth camps
Ron Hall, *Executive Director*
207.518.9557 PO Box 1861, Portland, Maine 04104
www.maine camps.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT SPRING 2021

With the Maine spring brings new and renewed hope as Maine Summer Camps prepare to open for Summer 2021. There is no doubt the last 14 months have had many trials. However, with the recent release of the camp guidelines it is encouraging that all camps have a path forward.



I want to take a moment to recognize the continued advocacy of the Maine Youth Camping Association (MYCA) board during this very stressful and chaotic season. They have truly gone above and beyond to represent all Maine camps. They have tirelessly met every two weeks and often more frequently when needed. If you have the opportunity, please thank them for the generosity of their time and efforts.

While much of our attention has been focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, our MSC Education Committee has continued to offer learning opportunities around diversity, equity, and inclusion. I hope you had the chance to attend these virtual gatherings as we learn and grow together. Thank you to the committee members for their work to ensure that Maine camp directors have opportunities for continued professional development so we can best support and empower all MSC campers and staff.

In recent months, the strength of our organization has grown with more member camps joining. This is quite remarkable with the current challenges the camp industry faces amidst the ongoing pandemic. I believe the strength of Maine camps comes from the willingness of each member to open themselves up and collaborate during these challenging times. It is a true testament to the character of each camp leader as we help our neighboring and "competitor" camps prepare for a successful summer.

As we move into summer and our focus shifts to our own camp communities, I am reminded of all the youth we will be serving this summer. Navigating the Maine state COVID-19 guidelines will take work and have its challenges. I believe our continued work and dedication will be worth it as our youth need a fun-filled summer camp experience more than anything.

My hope is for all Maine camps to have a fulfilled and successful summer, hosting thousands of youth. And that we can celebrate together in person this fall!

Warmly, Beigette

Welcome New Camp Member!

New England Golf and Tennis Camp, Belgrade

Our facilities provide a scenic and one-of-a-kind camp experience, but our staff really set our camp apart. Our family atmosphere makes campers feel they are at their home away from home. Whether they have been to camp a number of summers or for the first time, all are welcomed by one of the most caring and talented staffs in the camping industry that provide a golf, tennis and camping experience second to none.

Bob Siff, 207.729.2267
info@golfcamp.com
golfcamp.com

Three Step Plan *continued from page 1*

Step 3: Speak Up

It can be hard to be vulnerable and express needs. The desire to feel like, and be seen as, an invincible child development superhero who doesn't need breaks is there for many of us, but we're also all human. We love our jobs, and although working at camp is a big lifestyle shift each summer that feels all-consuming, we still have families, friends, hobbies, and needs outside of camp that don't disappear just because the calendar turns to June. I'm incredibly grateful to have directors who see me as a whole human first, not as that superhero who can work 24/7, but instead someone who needs to take care of her whole self in order to show up for our camp family. They are responsive and thoughtful when I ask for what I need. But even though it sometimes seems like it, Wawenock's directors can't read my mind. I must tell them what I need, and then we can work together to make it happen. I'm willing to bet that if you thoughtfully share the "why" regarding your need for that 20-minute daily nap, or 30-minute car ride outside of the camp gates, your supervisors, and your peers, will brainstorm with you to find a solution that works for you and the needs of Camp. As emerging camping professionals, we must learn how to articulate our own needs both in order to develop professionally and make our jobs sustainable for our future careers.

When all was said and done, last summer we were able to find a designated solo space that was tucked away from the hustle and bustle of Camp. It was a space where I could sleep, watch a movie, and eat my favorite snacks on my time off. As with many changes resulting from the pandemic, I found a silver lining with this style of time off. I didn't have to think through any logistics! I benefited from the same plan we created for our counselors' time off. Just like our counselors, the day before my time off I placed an order from our favorite local sandwich and ice cream shops using the same spreadsheet our counselors used. Our designated outside-of-the-bubble driver was assigned to go pick it up and bring it to the staff refrigerator. All I had to do was sneak there when I knew no one else would be around and retrieve my treats. Magic! Unlike planning my pre-COVID time off, none of my time was wasted thinking about the logistics of driving and traffic or what to eat.

At Wawenock we have a saying: "Counselors First = Campers First." We want our staff to know that they need to take care of themselves so that they can best take care of their campers. I believe it must start with us. **Camp Leaders First = Camp Community First.** Make sure to value and plan for your self-care now so that you can be your best self for your campers and staff this summer.

You deserve it! ■

YOU ADAPTED TO COVID-19 *So We Adapted, Too*

From virtual camps to new hygiene protocols, you had to change how you work fast. So we did the same. Between April to July, The Redwoods Group - in collaboration with Chalmers here in the Northeast - have supported camps and other youth-serving organizations with:

- 37 COVID-specific webinars
- 2953 virtual check-ins, Zoom calls and other customer engagements
- More than \$2 million in returned insurance premiums (with more to come)

When you adapt to a crisis, we adapt to meet your needs. Get in touch to discuss your insurance options.

CampChalmers.com | 800-360-3000



- Now the Northeast representative of -



Going Virtual: MSC Reworks Business Networking Extravaganza, Job Fair

With screens as the norm, and camp and business members starting the sprint to summer, Maine Camps didn't skip a beat. In collaboration with BoothCentral, an online events platform, MSC held both the annual Business Networking Extravaganza and a job fair (with a second in the works), where participants attended from the comfort of their own offices or home. It wasn't the same as being in person, but many camp professionals say it had benefits that exceeded expectations.

Business Networking Extravaganza

About 25 business members created virtual booths on the Booth Central platform for the first virtual networking event.

"I'm happy we took it on," Ron Hall said. "It's a way during this time that we can be supportive of our businesses."

After evaluating close to a dozen possible formats, BoothCentral emerged as the most affordable with the least complicated technology. Participants were pleased.

"Firstly, I thought kudos to Ron for pulling this together," said Martin Rogers, owner of Brio Promotions in Rockland. "For us it was a success. We met potential clients and generated some leads. We did exactly what we intended to do. By that metric, it was a success." Rogers called the BoothCentral setup link "simple and clear and not overwhelming. The technology served its purpose," he said.

Arleen Shepherd of Camp Skylemar agreed with Rogers. "I thought it was excellent considering the circumstances, in terms of having the ability to connect with vendors who support MSC."

Shepherd, who says she has attended a variety of similar events, said the platform "was more simplistic and a better system than some of the other ones."

"It was definitely making lemonade of out lemons," she said.

Shepherd described the details of the platform as user-friendly. The "booth," included the vendor's name and the number of people in the room. If it appeared someone was already there conversing with the host, "I knew to come back."

Camp participation may have been more "intentional and less social" on the virtual platform, Shepherd said. "For me, whether in person or virtual, I wanted to make sure each vendor got a visit from me," she said. And Shepherd's visits had dividends.

"Definitely for me, several vendors I was just curious about," she said. And after chatting about "products I didn't think I needed," she is buying them.

Moreover, Shepherd also may have a potential job candidate, thanks to a conversation about a staff vacancy with a vendor.

"If I could say something to all businesses in Maine," Shepherd said. "This is the biggest bang for your advertising buck." The event provided direct access to people looking to buy and provided a platform for selling, she said.

"It's guaranteed people are going to buy stuff," she said.

Suzi Pond, founder and principal of Redbird Media Group said, "we had a really great experience."

"The ease of the 'pop in the room' sort of thing was cool," she said. "I had genuine good discussions with people."

One awkward element, Pond said, arose when someone popped into the room while a conversation was already underway. "But that's the same as if you're in person," she said.

"I was pleasantly surprised," Pond said. "I would do it again, for sure. I like the in-person, I do, but I would do it again."

The hope is that such an event won't be necessary, come 2022.

"Hopefully, we'll be at the Italian Heritage Center," said Ron Hall. "For a full day of workshop and the Business Networking Extravaganza."

Going Virtual continues on page 7.



Acadia
INSURANCE
I a Berkley Company

FAMILIES COUNT ON YOU TO PROTECT YOUR CAMPERS.
Count on us to cover you.

ENJOY THE SAME PEACE OF MIND
YOUR CAMPERS COUNT ON YOU FOR.

Your camp's the natural place for your guests to refresh and unwind. Invest in the protection that can keep you worry-free too. Acadia's enhanced camp policies can cover your property and equipment. Because a wild world deserves a bit of safeguarding too.

Acadia Insurance is a member company of W. R. Berkley Corporation, whose insurance company subsidiaries are rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company and A+ (Strong), by S&P.
All coverage is subject to applicable underwriting guidelines.

For more information, contact Acadia Insurance | 800-773-4300 | www.AcadiaInsurance.com
CONNECTICUT | MAINE | MASSACHUSETTS | NEW HAMPSHIRE | NEW YORK | VERMONT



MSC Book Club

Recapping the conversation about *Braiding Sweetgrass*

The MSC Book Club met via Zoom on Wednesday, April 21 to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The general consensus was that this book was thought-provoking, informational, and inspirational.

Kimmerer is a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, a scientist, a decorated professor of environmental biology, and a gifted storyteller. She weaves those perspectives in sharing lessons as far ranging as the bearing of history on the future, the struggle between individual ownership and strength of community, the interconnection of economics and ecology, and the essential reciprocity of the relationship between humans and plants.

Conversation ranged from sharing personally impactful stories from the book to ways to respectfully introduce concepts into our camp cultures.

Many thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the conversation! If you haven't had the chance to read *Braiding Sweetgrass* yet, put it on your must-read list. ■

Bunkline

"Your brand handled with care"

STAFF & CAMPER TEES • CUSTOM APPAREL • PROMOTIONAL

Screen Printing

Embroidery

Awards

Giveaways

Create Camp Apparel Store

Quality & On Time Delivery

Call for Quotation

UNDER ARMOUR DEALER

800-435-6888

10% OFF First order for 2021

Community Connections Group Members Forge New Relationships

The Community Connections Group (the former Outreach Committee) spent the fall and winter working to build connections and relationships within Maine Summer Camps. The Community Connections group is an affinity group for professionals in the early stages of their career who are looking to connect with other MSC professionals.

We've been meeting through Zoom to get to know each other by presenting Camp Show & Tells of our camps and chatting about current topics. We are also excited about our new Drinks and Discussion series, an initiative aimed at helping emerging professionals connect with more experienced camp leaders by providing an informal opportunity to get to know each other and discuss camp-related topics.

Join us on May 13 at 4pm for our Drinks and Discussion with Jack Erler! We'll hear from Jack about his career and lessons learned throughout his journey.

We are looking to continue these events in the fall by hearing from retired directors and those in "Director Emeritus" roles. Given the challenges of technology, we know we'll need help from the active members of our community to engage with

those folks. If you know of someone in this type of position who may be interested in sharing their story with us, please fill out this short form.



Click here to register for drinks & discussions with Jack Erler

If you or someone at your organization would like to get involved with the Community Connections Group, email Kristy Harvey at kristy@campwawenock.com. ■

2021 Calendar

Wednesday, April 28

10 am Virtual Spring MSC Board of Directors Meeting

Date to be announced



1:30-4 pm Chris Thurber Staff Training Workshop
Camp Wawenock, Raymond

Monday-Friday, July 26-30

Junior Maine Guides Test Camp
Stephen Phillips Preserve, Oquossoc




Wednesday, September 22

MYCF and MYCA Annual Meeting &
Cookout at Migis Lodge, South Casco

Protect Campers and Staff while Managing Risk

with Pooled Saliva Testing using RT-PCR Analysis

IMPORTANT FEATURES

☒ **Definitive and quick turnaround (RT-PCR 6 hours after receipt by lab)**

☒ **Non-invasive sample collection, everyone has their own sample vial**

☒ **Can clear groups of people with a single test**

☒ **Individuals remain anonymous**

☒ **Practical pool size = 3 to about 100**

☒ **Cost-effective tool for group testing**

Stefanie Lamb
(Bedford, NH)
slamb@geosyntec.com
603-715-6439


Duane Graves
(Knoxville, TN)
dgraves@siremlab.com
865-291-4693

RECOGNIZED BY CDC AS A VIABLE TOOL FOR MONITORING VIRUS PRESENCE IN SMALL POPULATIONS

ABOUT GEOSYNTec AND SIREM

Geosyntec is a globally recognized environmental consulting and engineering firm with laboratory capabilities that offers COVID-19 support services including testing methods which can detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Geosyntec's Laboratory Division, SIREM, provides data to our clients to understand if small groups such as campers and staff harbor SARS-CoV-2 and are at risk of further infection. Group testing provides early detection and allows for response to protect and reduce against an outbreak.



[geosyntec.com/pool](https://www.geosyntec.com/pool)

Updates from MYCA



MYCA President Laura Ordway

Message from MYCA President Laura Ordway

MYCA (Maine Youth Camping Association) is the sister organization to Maine Summer Camps (MSC). MYCA's mission is to monitor, publicly comment and interpret state and federal legislation on behalf of MSC, with the purpose of furthering the welfare of camps in Maine. We maintain relationships with policy officials for camp advocacy. Additionally, our 501(c)(4) non-profit status allows for limited activities supporting political campaigns. As a member of MSC, your camp is also a member of MYCA.

This winter and early spring has been busy for MYCA. We have hosted information sessions regarding state industry guidance, COVID-19 testing for camps, and vaccination access for staff. In addition, we are monitoring the 130th Maine legislature, J-1 Visa status, Health Inspection Program for summer 2021, waivers, mandated reporting and more. We are pleased to see DECD included our suggested changes in the updated state guidelines for camps, specifically that all residential camps of any length and any number of sessions may operate, and staff time-off guidance is less restrictive than 2020's guidelines.

There is still a lot to be done, and while we do not expect significant changes to the Maine state industry guidance for camps, we do expect to hear more in the coming weeks about international staff, federal funding to states for particular industries, and Maine legislation which directly affects summer camps. MYCA will continue to keep members up to date via the Hall Monitor, Maine Camp Directors Facebook page and roundtable discussions. We ask that those of you with general questions regarding the state industry guidance for day or residential camps continue to contact MYCA, via Ron Hall, with questions, rather than contacting DECD directly. *Here's to a fun and safe summer for all!*

Going Virtual *continued from page 4*

Virtual Job Fair Reaches Students Far and Wide

While in-person job fairs typically reach only students enrolled at the host college or university, this year's Virtual Job Fair targeted college students from dozens of schools throughout Maine and New Hampshire. And for some camps — plus the lucky raffle prize winner — the event turned up promising results.

Anastasia, a senior at Husson College, not only made contacts at several camps, but her last-minute choice to sign onto the job fair garnered her the \$1,000 raffle prize. A mass communications and radio broadcasting major, with photography and theater interests, Anastasia says working at a camp would provide a chance to utilize her skills and draw on vast experience interacting with kids.

As for the prize money, she says she was “insanely shocked” to win. “I thought ‘no way, this isn't real. Is it April Fool's?’”

She says she will know in May what her final summer plans are.

Camp directors were upbeat about the event as well.

Brian Kooperman of Bridgton Sports Camps hired one staff member from the event. “For us, that's great,” he said. “I would definitely do it again.”

“My biggest worry was whether it would produce any staff members,” he said. “I spoke to five or six potential staff members.”

As for camp generally, Kooperman said, “We feel good. Our numbers are very good. I feel like Maine has done a great job, especially Ron. We know what we need to do to be successful.”

Kamp Kohut Associate Director Carly Vargas called the event “genius.”

“I probably talked to 10 or 15, and hired a couple,” she said. “Hopefully, we'll get more applications.”

Vargas says she would “absolutely” sign up for another virtual fair. “It was truly successful. Sign us up.”

Patrick Wright, head counselor at Camp Agawam, also had success in recruiting. Three students who attended the fair applied for positions; all three received job offers.

“I would do it again, especially if it's specifically targeting education students,” he said. The “immersive experience” of camp is ideal experience for such students, he said, particularly given the pandemic's impact on student teaching opportunities, plus the overall 24/7 exposure to children as they learn and develop.

At Camp Susan Curtis, director Terri Mulks called the job fair platform “really easy to use.” Mulks said she did not garner any applicants from the fair but did connect with former campers who may seek job shadowing or other non-full-time opportunities.

“Just having conversations with them was lovely,” she said. ■

MSC Leaders Recognized with National, New England Awards

Maine Summer Camps was well represented among recent 2021 ACA National and ACA New England award winners. Congratulations to Jack Erler, Esq., Dr. Laura Blaisdell, Ron Hall, and the MSC leadership team for well-deserved recognition.

ACA National Awards

■ Hedley S. Dimmock Award – Jack Erler, Esq

Jack Erler's vital contributions and abilities were deservedly recognized as the 2021 recipient of the ACA National Hedley S. Dimmock Award. As an attorney and longtime true youth camping expert, his current role as part of MSC's in-house staff was invaluable in 2020 when camps needed a true partner and advocate with the State of Maine. As the pandemic upended summer 2020 plans, Jack helped both MSC members and the State of Maine to navigate the health, safety and regulatory policies enabling some camps to operate. Jack ensured camps had a seat at the table with the Mills administration and its commissions, with whom collaboration and communication were essential. This proactive partnership enabled camps to truly benefit from policies created with input from those who know camps best.



Jack Erler

For more than 35 years, Jack has represented youth camps with the breadth and depth of their operations, including issues related to children, employment, health and safety, regulatory compliance, organizational structure, land use, environmental, tax, purchase and sale transactions and transition planning. Jack is also speaker on the many legal issues affecting youth camping.

His longtime devotion to youth camping is evidenced by his role in 1974 working with Maine's Department of Health and Human Services to draft the original youth camp rules. Jack assisted in each subsequent substantive revision.

Jack is also a past recipient of the Halsey Gulick Award for service to the Maine youth camping movement.

The Hedley S. Dimmock Award is given to one who contributes to camping through related fields such as outdoor education, conservation, recreation, medicine, education, architecture, or the social sciences.

■ ACA National Special Recognition Award – New England Camp Associations

ACA National also recognized all six New England Camp Associations for their efforts in supporting their camps during the pandemic. The Special Recognition Award is designed to

honor individuals or groups for "demonstrated efforts that have significance on a national level and do not fall into any other award categories."

Nominations for the New England associations highlighted those associations' hosting bi-weekly meetings last April; associations' presidents or leadership continued weekly and bi-weekly conversations throughout the spring and summer to help prepare for and respond to COVID-19. Those meetings continue today. The nomination praised the associations for creating a unified message of support for states' camps, as well as their sharing of information.

In addition, the New England state associations were recognized as being a primary resource for camps seeking guidance and information. Nominating bodies said that by continually answering camps' questions, and communicating directly with states' governing bodies, the associations played a vital role and served as a model for state and regional associations nationwide.

Congratulations to Maine Summer Camps' Ron Hall, Jack Erler, Beigette Gill, Peter Hirsch, Laura Ordway, and Steve Sudduth

■ Eleanor P. Eells Award for Excellence in Evaluation and Research – Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

Dr. Laura Blaisdell, medical director of Camp Winnebago and pediatric and public health specialist was recognized for her role as the lead author on a study for the CDC about the successful operations of four Maine summer camps this past summer.

In her nomination, Dr. Blaisdell's work was praised for the study's benefits not only to camps as they plan for summer 2021, but also the entire world of public health policy in helping to understand management of COVID-19 in a residential setting. Her evidence-based consulting is founded on her years of experience, published research on managing H1N1 and COVID-19 in the camp setting and serving as an expert panelist in the creation of the Field Operation Guide for the ACA and the Y-CAMPs of the United States.

Dr. Blaisdell's wide-ranging professional efforts include her current practice at the Pediatric Clinic at Maine Medical Center (MMC), her role as Vice President of Maine AAP and a founding member of Maine Families for Vaccines.

Dr. Blaisdell has served as a public health consultant to state camp organizations, numerous independently owned camps and as well as public and private schools. Dr. Blaisdell currently serves as a medical advisor to the American Camp Association (ACA).



Dr. Laura Blaisdell

MSC Leaders Recognized continues on page 9.

MSC Leaders Recognized *continued from page 8*

ACA New England Awards

■ Community Honor Award – Ron Hall

MSC's Executive Director **Ron Hall** was awarded a 2021 ACA New England Community Honor Award, recognizing support of quality camp experiences.

"You were the right person at the right moment to help Maine camps stay connected and informed during this most challenging time," one nominee wrote.



Ron Hall

Among Ron's many efforts was offering many forums for sharing and learning among MSC members, including numerous "Town Halls." These events enabled camps to benefit from others' resources, suggestions, and support based on individual camps' circumstances. Ron was also tireless in helping to create a healthy relationship with the State of Maine, providing camps with a true seat at the table to help shape operating policies.

Ron was also praised for his willingness to meet on short notice and be an ever-present resource as camp owners and directors sought guidance in the shifting landscape of camp and

COVID-19. He was a frequent media presence, both locally and nationally, sharing his expertise and insights and demonstrating the Maine camping community's professionalism and commitment to children and camping.

Ron received an ACA National Service Award in 2019, for special recognition of "continued and increasing service beyond the local level."

He also received the 2017 Maine Summer Camps Halsey Gulick award for distinguished service organized youth camping. ■

May 12 Webinar: COVID-19 and Camp

Save the date for an MSC webinar with Dr. Laura Blaisdell on May 12, 12- 1pm. If you have questions you would like to have answered about COVID-19 and camp, please send them to Anna Hopkins at director@friendscamp.org.

We're planning to cover what to do if you get a positive antigen or PCR test while at camp and how to handle issues of partially vaccinated individuals at camp.



[Click here to register for the May 12 webinar.](#)



www.BlastPartyRentals.com

BLAST
PARTY RENTALS.COM

We Bring the FUN!

We're ready for
SUMMER!

South Berwick, ME - 207-457-0234

***NEW* for the season ~LED Mini Golf~ VR Roller Coaster ~ and more ~**



Heed Health is partnering with Summer Camps to provide pre-arrival and on-site COVID-19 testing and expert clinical advisory to get campers on-site and keep them safe all summer long!

COVID Testing & Advisory for Camps

Starting at \$40 per Camper!

COORDINATION

Your dedicated Heed Health Team oversees the coordination of Covid-19 testing supplies, information and results

ADVISORY

Both your Heed Provider and Client Manager provide instant advice and support as needed, especially in the event of any positive results

MANAGEMENT

Heed's proprietary platform tracks and records results, connecting administrators with real-time insights on the health status of their entire group

PROMPT RESULTS

Results are delivered within 48 hours of your group samples arriving to the lab

Contact us today for more information!
heedhealthcare.com/covid-19-solutions-for-camps/

APPAREL
T-SHIRTS • HOODIES • HEADWEAR
OUTERWEAR • TUBIES • MORE

STICKERS
LOGOS • PRODUCT LABELS • BRANDING
CUSTOM SHAPE • WEATHERPROOF • MORE

BANNERS
VINYL BANNERS • WALL ART • X-FRAME
ROLL UP • PILLOWCASE • MORE

PROMOS
DRINKWARE • SUNGLASSES • JOURNALS
CAN COOLIE • OVER 100,000 ITEMS

PRINT
BUSINESS CARDS • POSTCARDS
BROCHURES • RACK CARDS • MORE

DESIGN
CUSTOM DESIGNS • MOCKUPS
LOGOS • BRANDING • MORE

TUBIES®
MULTIFUNCTIONAL TUBULAR BANDANA
FREE DESIGN, SETUP & DELIVERY

 888-644-7745

 info@stickersandmore.com


CUSTOM PRINTING & DESIGN SINCE 1995





Does your on-line Camp Store need a boost?
We have the gear that sells! ...and now through August 31st, mention this ad to receive a free design and virtual mockup of your next Branding/Marketing project with no commitment to buy!

...and so the adventure continues



Affiliate member





Welcome New Business Members!

Aflex Technology (NZ) LTD

Aflex specializes in the design, manufacture and international distribution of high quality NZ-made inflatables for commercial pools, camps, resorts and more! Innovative, durable, and great fun for all ages.

Yvette Newman
+64.35466747
sales@aflextechnology.com
aflexinflatables.com

CIC Health

CIC Health is the largest COVID-19 testing service provider to schools in New England, serving over 120 schools. With camps in mind, we rolled out a testing strategy that includes a pre-camp PCR test, first day testing, and surveillance/screening during camp to provide families with the reassurance that summer camps are a safe space for play. Our testing collaborators and labs are some of the most recognized academic and scientific institutions in the country, including the Broad Institute of MIT, Harvard and the University of Minnesota Genomics Center.

Veronica Wilken
617.417.4151
veronica.wilken@cic-health.com
www.cic-health.com

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Geosyntec is a consulting and engineering firm that works with private and public sector clients to address new ventures and complex problems involving our environment, natural resources and civil infrastructure.

Stefanie Lamb
603.782.4072
slamb@geosyntec.com
www.Geosyntec.com



Heed Health Care

Heed Health's mission is to be a trusted resource and partner for all in our battle against COVID-19. We provide on-demand support, exposure monitoring, tracking, FDA testing, EUA testing and timely results.

Robin Wells
703.939.4925
r.wells@heedhealthcare.com
www.heedhealthcare.com

NorDx Laboratories

Full service clinical laboratory offering PCR Covid testing.

Karen Melecha
800.773.5814
meleck@mmc.org
www.nordx.org

Vestals Gap Ventures, LLC

Vestals Gap Ventures has been providing design, installation, inspection, and training for challenge courses, climbing towers, zipline tours, and aerial adventure parks since 1979.

Randy Smith
540.668.6699
VestalsGapVentures@gmail.com
www.vestalsgapventures.com/

**CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS MAKE OUR SERVICE
FASTER, BETTER, & MORE RELIABLE.**

Maine's Finest Commercial Kitchen Parts
& Hot Side Service Provider
& its only CFESA Certified Company



Our Refrigeration Team has got you covered

GOLD DIVISION

- Prep Stations
- Reach-ins
- Ice Machines
- Walk-in Coolers
- Cold Beverage Machines
- Display Cases
- Performance Maintenance Plans



**Pine Tree
Food Equipment**

CERTIFIED PARTS AND SERVICE
REFRIGERATION DIVISION



800.540.5427 PineTreeFoodEquipment.com

Maine Camp History

Camp Blazing Trail for Girls and The 21st Annual Conference for Trip and Campcraft Counselors

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

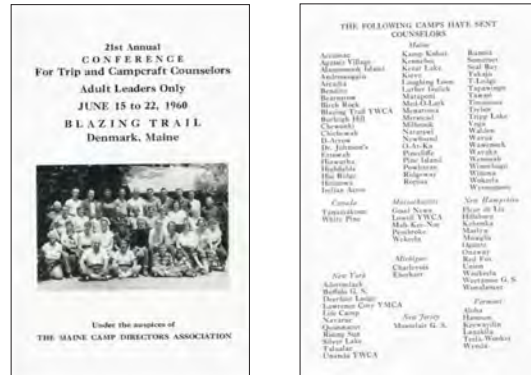
Camp Blazing Trail held the 21 Annual Conference for Trip and Campcraft Counselors and specifically for adult leaders under the auspices of The Maine Camp Directors Association from June 15, 1960 to June 22, 1960.

Blazing Trail, by all accounts, was founded in 1930 by Eugenia Parker. It was Ms. Parker who wanted to create a camp where girls could learn skills and acquire knowledge about surviving in the outdoors. In order to provide such an environment, Ms. Parker (who was also known as Aunt Gigi) purchased land on the eastern slope of Allen Mountain in Denmark, Maine. She hired a man named Harry Jordon, a lumberman in Maine, to build cabins from hemlock logs. After operating the camp for 25 years, Eugenia retired and the Boston YMCA acquired the property in 1955.

Blazing Trail conducted the 1960 Conference for men and women who had camping experience so as to provide the opportunity to learn in the short space of a week how to peek the interest of campers in outdoor camping including Mountain climbing and Campcraft canoe trips. The course followed programs outlined by the Junior Maine Guides and included how to sharpen tools and

advanced swimming and canoeing techniques. According to the 21st Annual Conference brochure, beds, mattresses and pillows were provided for those attending. The Conference however, encouraged counselors to bring their own sleeping bags, blankets, towels, camp clothes and shoes as well as an axe, knife, compass cooking kit, fishing rod, notebook, pencil and flashlight. It was also noted that the Conference would offer for sale "reflector ovens, folding saws and materials as necessary for "fly tying".

The 1960 brochure for the Campcraft Conference stated that the following camps were to send Counselors. ■



Editor's Note: This article is written by noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson who attended Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine from 1966 through 1973 as a camper, counselor, and ultimately, program director. Mr. Johnson is the author of numerous articles and publications relating to the history of Maine summer camps. If you wish to submit information relating to the history of any Maine summer camp you may do so at: hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com

EAST COAST *Flightcraft* of New England

NY | CT | MA | NH | ME

Catering to Camps since 1995!

COBALT BOATS

603.279.8300 www.eastcoastflightcraft.com

Dan Lemieux
~President~

MSC Level Ground Initiative

Partners continue to provide opportunities for immigrant and refugee children

As youngsters arrive at camps throughout Maine this summer, campers invited via the **Level Ground Initiative** will again be among them. Level Ground is a Maine Summer Camps program that seeks to provide summer youth camp opportunities, free of charge, to immigrant and refugee children for whom such experiences would otherwise be unavailable. While the initiative was suspended for the 2020 season, this summer campers who have either previously attended camp thanks to the program, or are being placed through community partner Portland Community Squash, will once again be hosted by partner camps.

Thanks to Portland Community Squash's energy and enthusiasm, along with the generosity and commitment of member camps, numerous PCS students will attend Maine camps this summer.

The Level Ground Committee remains profoundly grateful for the generosity of partner camp organizations who will either welcome campers back in 2021 or have committed to increasing available placements come Summer 2022. Partner camps'

commitment to the program is what makes this initiative possible, and even amidst the challenges that the pandemic has presented camps have been steadfast in their allegiance to providing these camp opportunities. The Committee also welcomes Agassiz Village to its camping partners. Agassiz Village has historically providing low-to-no-cost camp opportunities to children from under-resourced communities in Greater Boston. As part of its plan to work toward allotting a full 50 percent of its camp spaces to Maine campers, Agassiz Village and Portland Community Squash (PCS) have collaborated to make camp a reality for a number of PCS students. According to Ash Bahi, director of Agassiz Village, Level Ground will continue to be a primary vehicle for placing Maine campers.

This summer, Level Ground is working exclusively with community partner PCS. Thanks to PCS's energy and enthusiasm, along with the generosity and commitment of member camps, numerous PCS students will attend Maine camps this summer. In addition, several participating camps have independently extended camp placements to previous Level Ground campers.

As camps continue to navigate summer 2021 and the challenges inherent in the COVID-19 landscape they have been unwavering in the support of the Level Ground initiative going forward.

We couldn't be more grateful. ■



www.fivestargolfcars.com

665 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME / 207.289.8717 / 603.527.8095