

Big Happenings at High Rocks

Preparations for camp have really picked up speed with summer approaching. We are very excited about our summer staff and invite you to check out our website www.highrocks.com to see who will be on the 2004 High Rocks staff. A list of campers attending High Rocks is included with this newsletter. With summer just around the corner we wanted to share some exciting news from camp.

Associate Director Appointments



We're very excited to announce that Don & Elizabeth "Zoob" Gentle have been named Associate Directors effective April, 2004. While Hank and Townsend are not going anywhere and remain the camp directors, Don and Zoob will be taking on more leadership and supervisory roles. Don is entering his eleventh summer at High Rocks and began year-round employment in October of 1995. Don has served as Paddling Director, Program Director, and Assistant Director. He has directed the fall LEAP programs since their inception and has managed the Outdoor Instructor Training School for much of its eleven years. Don's computer expertise

has kept us in the 21st century. Zoob is entering her twelfth summer at High Rocks and began year-round employment in November of 1997. She has served as Swimming Director, Program Director, and Assistant Director. Zoob has been responsible for staff recruitment and hiring and is a major reason we have such a quality staff year after year. This is an exciting time for the Gentles- in addition to their new responsibilities at camp, they are expecting their first child in September.

New Bikes, New Trails to Ride

A new fleet of mountain bikes has just arrived at High Rocks! The new Jamis bikes were being tuned up last week by our Mountain Biking Head, Garvin Deters. We have been in the process of selling most of our bikes that are a year or two old to local residents; although we will have some left if any camp families want a great deal on a mountain bike. For a large part of the winter, Billy Harris and André Bell have been working on improving our existing trails and building new trails. We are very excited to have a hiking/biking trail to the DuPont State Forest as well as a hiking/biking trail to Hemlock Falls, a waterfall located on the North side of the High Rocks property.

New Assistant Director

We are very excited to have Grant Irons joining our full-time team at High Rocks as the Assistant Director, effective June, 2004. Grant served as the High Rocks Backpacking Director in 1999. Since then he has worked for Adventure Treks and Voyager Outward Bound School leading trips and instructing backpacking, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking, sea kayaking, canoeing and camping. For two years Grant was the Summer Camp Director for Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly in Hunt,



Texas. There he was responsible for all aspects of the summer program, including camper and staff recruitment, program development, and oversight of the entire summer camp program. Most recently, Grant has taught in the Outdoor Education Department at Texas A&M University. Some of the upper level classes he has taught include "Outdoor Adventure Programs", "Rock Site Management and Logistics", and "Strategies for Backcountry Travel". Grant will be joining us this summer after he and his bride, Brittany, return from their wedding on June 5th and then their honeymoon in Jamaica!

Dr. Rudy



Rudy Dunlap came to High Rocks planning to be a rock-climbing counselor for the summer of 2001. After he broke his collarbone prior to the camp season, he became a head counselor for that summer instead (we do not recommend seeking jobs by using this method!!). He has now worked full-time at camp for the past two years. In addition to his head counselor responsibilities, he planned last summer's leadership expedition, which was a wonderful experience for all the boys on the trip. In the fall, he has been a course director for LEAP programs and has coordinated our springtime

Outdoor Educator Training programs. Rudy was instrumental in developing the High Rocks Campership Fund that will financially assist campers that might not otherwise be able to afford a camp experience. This year, he spent a lot of time with the first annual all-color camp newsletter, which was also a tremendous success. Rudy's plans will now take him to the University of Georgia, where he will be seeking a PhD in Recreation and Leisure Studies. We are very excited for him but will miss him here at High Rocks. Rudy plans to pitch in this summer at camp as his schedule allows.

Forest Stewardship

More than a decade ago, Jane and Sumner Williams, the camp founders, entered into a Forest Stewardship Plan with the National Forest Service. The plan calls for the recreational use of the High Rocks property through trail construction, developing wildlife habitat, and responsible timber management. As part of the plan, around thirty acres of mature Poplar trees were harvested on the slopes along the north side of the camp road this spring. The trees that were harvested were near the end of their life cycle and were individually marked for removal by our consulting forester, Wayne Horn. Mr. Horn oversaw the operation to ensure the loggers used environmentally sensitive measures as they harvested the trees, especially around springheads and other sensitive areas. The results will provide open areas in the woods for wildlife grazing and the logging road will become a new trail that will allow horseback riders and mountain bikers an alternative to riding along the camp road. Particularly gratifying is the knowledge that the trees that would have died over the next ten to twenty years will now be used and therefore save an equivalent number of trees that might not have been logged in a responsible way elsewhere. There will be a few years of looking at tree tops that are left as a result of any logging operation, but fortunately Poplar, being a soft wood, rots very quickly and should be gone in three or four years. In the meantime the brush piles will provide habitat for small animals. Poplars put out a tremendous amount of seeds and we should see an enormous number of new poplars springing up this summer.

New Hiking Pavilion

The hiking folks will now have a roof over their heads! Our new hiking pavilion will have plenty of storage area for hiking equipment and give the hikers a "roofed" option with a natural look. Located between Holiday Inn cabin and the Gym, the new hiking pavilion blends in nicely with its surroundings. Jason Maloney, our year-round carpenter, has done a great job on the construction, using natural laurel branches for rails and rough-cut lumber for the siding.

