

Founded 1958



# Preserve Rich Mountain!!

Rich Mountain, rising above the lake at High Rocks, helps form the heart of camp as a focal point in pictures, a beautiful backdrop to the many waterfront activities, and a spot of reflection on Sunday mornings. As the headwaters of the Little River, Rich Mountain also has huge influence over its watershed and directly affects the camp lake and our well system.

For several years the Conservation Fund has held the Rich Mountain property and expressed interest in having the land conserved and sold to a non-profit rather than sell to an individual or business. The sale has never emerged as a top priority for the Conservation Fund until recently. In January 2007 the Rich Mountain Conservancy was formed as a non-profit corporation to purchase and manage the property. The mission of the Rich Mountain Land Conservancy is to protect and preserve this area as a responsibly managed forestland. In December, the Rich Mountain Conservancy signed an option to purchase the property (with a conservation easement in place) to ensure the future protection of

## The 50th Anniversary

As many of you know, this past September Camp High Rocks celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation. That Friday seemed to promise the type of weekend weather that would bring back some serious character building memories from summers past, but Saturday dawned sunny and cool and the party was on. Over two hundred alumni gathered, from original campers and counselors of '58 to current staff fresh out of the '07 season.

(cont. on p4)...

the property.

The option prevents other parties from buying the land for a limited amount of time. This year, the Conservancy needs to raise \$500,000 to complete the purchase. There is now a campaign underway to raise money to protect this land once and for all. Please consider any donation you can offer to help support the Conservancy's efforts. To make a tax deductible donation, make checks payable to:

### **Rich Mountain Conservancy**

PO Box 127, Cedar Mountain, NC, 28718

At the fall alumni weekend in September, close to \$40,000 was raised by High Rocks alumni! Thanks to the following High Rocks alumni that have given generously:

Jane Williams  
Josie Patton  
Gina Williams  
Tricia and Inman Allen

Joe and Lisa Bankoff  
Hank & Townsend Birdsong

Dee Chalaron  
Steve Cox  
John Gildersleeve  
Steve Jamme  
Jeff Parks and Alice Gann  
Kay Hunter  
Bill Parsons  
Sara Thompson  
Mike and Susan Stevenson  
Wallis Raemer  
Tim Warmath  
Miles and Janie Foy  
Fran Jackson  
Robin and Anna Foster  
Alston Kirk  
Toby Ives and Sally Broughton  
Ann Leverette  
Lorraine McNamara  
Barret Normann  
Eddie and Susie Lanham  
Taine Alison  
Alexander Macaulay  
Moira McCarthy Taylor

## Around the Rocks...

A new year has begun and winter arrived at High Rocks with a vengeance. After a late white Christmas, that fell that night, we were hit with two more snow storms and temperatures have been hovering near freezing for nearly a week. The lake has frozen over several times, much to the dismay of our geese, blue heron, and bufflehead ducks who stood as if lost in the middle of the ice. Camp was blanketed in white and eerily quiet, waiting for the spring when energy and people would come pouring back in.

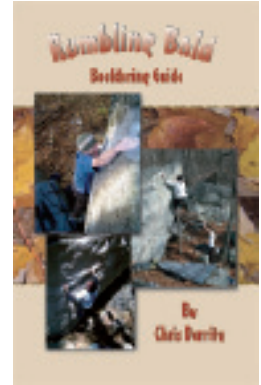
The snow had another major upside besides the visual appeal, the drought that has been (cont. on p3)...



**Top left to right:** Paul White, John Gildersleeve, Marshall McCallie, Mike Stevenson, Bobby Reardon **Bottom left to right:** Martin Schmidt, Rufus Bethea, Woody McKay, Jane Williams, Miles Foy

## Alumni News

**Clare Charnley** and her husband Rob had a little girl in November. Clare and her family reside in Jacksonville Florida where she works for an advertising agency. Clare worked at High Rocks in the office for several years and helped babysit for Mark and Benjamin in their early years. **Lewis Lovett** is engaged to Maggie Puryear and now both live in Charlottesville, VA. Lewis is splitting his time between seminary classes, Young Life, and rubbing elbows with rock stars at Music Today, a concert ticketing agency that keeps Lewis in touch with his musical roots. Lewis had quite the impact here as a camper and staff member, we hope Charlottesville is ready for him. **Chris Dorrity** has completed the Rumbling Bald Bouldering Guide, a full color book describing 882 boulder problems with local expertise and tons of photos. The book has been out several months in all major outdoor retail stores and climbing gyms in the Southeast as well as the larger cities around the US and can be ordered online at [www.caterbooks.com](http://www.caterbooks.com). It also has been showcased in The Asheville Citizen-Times, The Mountain Express, and The Blue Ridge Outdoors. We are happy to report that Chris will be directing our climbing program this summer and look forward to having him back on staff.



**Danny and Emily Howell**, both past counselors, have Northwest fever and look to be hooked in Spokane for a while to come. It sounds like they are staying ridiculously busy between work, school, and keeping up with the Ana, their two year old, and her new baby sister Maia. For some great pictures of the crew, check out [www.danem.blogspot.com](http://www.danem.blogspot.com)

The **Gertners** are doing well and staying busy in Gainesville and now at their new mountain home in Georgia, a retreat from the Florida heat.

**Harold** has begun a Master's program in Renewable Energies at ASU in Boone, we are now hoping for a visit with him so much closer. **Morris** is engaged to Heather Soroka and will be married this coming fall at the Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, congratulations to both of them. **Logan** is working on a major in Building Construction and is looking to transfer to Georgia Southern University. (cont. on p3)...



The Family Pool in Greensboro who braved some nasty weather, and make a mean latte.



The McCallie's of Chattanooga who let me try a big bite of "hot leaf", unsuspectingly... It's like wasabi in lettuce form.

### *Session availability*

Every fall we hit the road, visiting current campers and High Rocks alum who introduce us to new families looking for a summer camp experience. This word of mouth support is the single best way we have of meeting new and interested campers. These are a few of our stops along the way. A special thanks to those who worked so hard to put on such great shows.

We currently have a few spaces still available in the first three week session, please call us for information regarding the other sessions.



The Russ's in Atlanta, at the end of a great show despite competing with Sunday night

## *Alumni News cont...*

**Kevin Williams** and Morgan Bradshaw were married last May at Symmes Chapel, aka Pretty Place. Kevin is a grandson of Jane and Sumner Williams, and now lives with his wife in Raleigh, NC. A longtime camper and counselor at High Rocks, Kevin's roots are here in the mountains, with Morgan's childhood home just down the road. We hope to see more of the happy couple now with twice the family pull. **Katie Holcombe** is engaged to Rusty Cooper, a fellow GCSU alum, and is scheduled to tie the knot this May. While this means we won't see her back on the ropes course, we are wishing them both all the best in their new adventure. **Chad Harding** has just moved back to North Carolina with his family after spending some time in Seattle. Chad and his wife Leah have a little girl Maya (3) and a son Conrad (1). Chad is working as an architect with Carlton Architecture in Asheville. Chad spent several summers as a counselor and then worked full time with High Rocks for several years. It has been great to have Chad back in the area and we look forward to many more visits. **Katie Dodson** has been reporting in from writers' retreats in Montana and Vermont. She won the chance to participate through a competitive submission of writing samples and has been enjoying her time immensely with bonfires, snowshoeing, photography, and a bit of writing mixed in. Find updates on [www.thewritingscott.blogspot.com](http://www.thewritingscott.blogspot.com). **Macon Patton** was a camper years ago and now lives in Charlotte with his wife Lori and their son Mac. Macon remains connected to camp with visits and regular updates, and to the area by serving as President of the Rich Mountain Conservancy. **Will Leverette** is finishing a memoir on the history of paddling in the southeast from 1923 to 1980. He pulled stories from his own twenty plus years at High Rocks, from his professional work in the whitewater and risk management fields, and from numerous old timers and local legends in the area. Will is expecting to be published by the end of this summer and the book should be available through [www.historypress.com](http://www.historypress.com). He can be reached at [managerisk@charter.net](mailto:managerisk@charter.net) for any questions or interest in a presentation on his memoir and paddling in general.



Macon, Lori, and Mac.

## *Around the Rocks cont...*

(cont...) affecting the entire southeast had reduced lake levels here by four feet and the bottomless pond had all but vanished (yes, there was still a deep, dark hole in the middle). We are happy to report that both are back to full capacity and the streams are now cascading noisily through the property, made all the more noticeable by their long absence. While the small pond was dry, we took the opportunity to dredge it out to double its original size, and cleared some of the rhododendron from the banks. Access to the water's edge is now open and easy, and promises to be a new, secluded spot for fishing.

The fishing program has received a face-lift this past winter. Don took it under his wing after discovering an obsession with fly fishing. He developed a new curriculum that starts simply using a cane pole, then moves to advanced bait-cast and fly fishing techniques. All lures have been changed to single-hook style and the campers will learn all aspects of the sport. To keep it exciting, we will have a few more morning and evening fish events as well as some fly fishing trips on local streams. And, of course, we will bring back the very popular "fish fry" night that the guys really enjoyed. Get excited about catching some fish!!!

Continuing the waterfront theme, the paddling program has eight new canoes waiting to be unwrapped. Six Mad River Legend tandem canoes for whitewater, camping, or just goofing with a friend, and two Mad River Outrage solo canoes for those who dare to push the limits, and like to get wet. All still need custom outfitting, comfy padding, and inflated air bags, but they will be ready for this summer's river adventures.

On the other end of the canoeing spectrum, our paddling director, Fritz Orr, has been working this off-season on restoring several of camp's historic Old Town wooden canoes. Considering what he had to work with, Fritz has made some remarkable progress in taking them back to their glory days. I look forward to seeing him instructing from one on the lake this summer.

Another change is being made to a High Rocks institution, the "Old Barn", camp's original, is scheduled to be taken down early this spring as part of the improvements on that side of the facility. Among the treasures uncovered have been a two-wheeled horse buggy, ancient fiberglass kayaks and an original Czech-designed racing C-2, a herd of retired mountain bikes, a wooden pottery kick-wheel, and that was just scratching the surface. Piles of primo split firewood went to local families, a well-timed gift with this winter's weather, and wood from the structure has been recycled into other camp buildings, refurbished kitchen cabinets and furniture, and some saved for future projects that could make use of the aged character.



Across the road from the old barn is the site of camp's new maintenance shop, finally moving from the Bat Cave under Halfway. The much larger space will have a well equipped workspace, an area for vehicle maintenance, and a bathroom and water fountain for campers in soccer and archery/riflery. The added room, tools, and convenience of the shop promise to be a huge help in completing all manner of tasks around camp. Ground has been broken, with the completion date expected well before the summer's demands.

**Mail or E-Mail to: High Rocks, PO Box 210, Cedar Mountain, NC 28718 [mail@highrocks.com](mailto:mail@highrocks.com)**

## Alumni Weekend cont...

Alumni pictures can now be viewed on the Alumni page of the High Rocks website.

[www.highrocks.com](http://www.highrocks.com)

User name: **Camper** Password: **Sailboat**

Master of Ceremonies John Gildersleeve directed attendees into waterfall hikes in nearby Dupont, a cruise across the high ropes course, games of tennis, canoeing on the lake, or simply finding a patch of sun and catching up with old friends. The lodge contained a collection of pictures going back to the very early years contributed by Jane Williams, Martin Schmidt, and a host of other alumni. A big thank you to all who helped put the huge collection together

Dinner on Saturday was another event, with Pete and Mark Hilzim and Winx McCarthy making jambalaya and bananas foster for the whole crew. A bit of showmanship was involved with a huge cast iron cauldron in front of the dining hall, trucked in all the way from New Orleans. The food was terrific and the leftovers much appreciated for days afterwards.

Those who could still move then made their way to the gym for a Virginia Reel to bluegrass tunes and David Williams' lively calling. Moves like that had not been seen for some time at a High Rocks square dance, and many of the newcomers were busy making notes and trying to keep up.

What weekend spent at camp would be complete

## Where Are They Now?

**Jim Toman** has recently checked in from his island paradise of Wailuku, HI. The surfing, volcanoes, cliff jumping and fresh seafood have been fun, but he is missing those home-cooked meals in North Carolina, look for a return sometime this spring and expect to see him at camp this summer!

**Ashley Upchurch** spent the fall semester of this year studying at The University of Oulu, Finland where she has continued to spread the camp word and single-handedly started a migration of college-aged Finns to US camps for the summer of '08.

**Kimbrough Charbonneau** and **Camille Noland** joined up in Quito, Ecuador for a month of hostel work and Spanish lessons before continuing their tour through South America. Camille will be returning to the barn staff this summer.

**Nate Colston** has also returned from a semester abroad in Prague and now has his hands full taking classes to become an EMT and helping with his family business. While we will miss him this coming summer, a hiking/EMT staff member would be perfect for '09!

**Jason "Book" Bookheimer** is working for the Parks and Recreation Department of Danville, VA. We most recently heard from Book as he was trying to remember the name of that game... the one with bases, a pitcher, tennis racket and ball... always love hearing the Danish Rounder gospel being spread.

**John Carpenter, Leslie Hefner, and Josh Baggett** all shared a house in Brevard this winter. John works with Cornerstone Designs, learning how to build challenge courses around the southeast and in his spare time he has taken up ballet... Leslie is busy helping us in the office and being the



The Rich Mountain hiking contingent at the fire tower.

without campfire? For three hours after the dance, frigid temperatures were braved to share funny stories and poignant memories. The communal nature of the fire had not lost its power over the years and served as a focus for the adventures and challenges that bond the High Rocks generations to each other.

Sunday was a quieter affair, with the thought of leaving again present in every conversation. The morning was spent sharing more stories, laughing about the night before, and exchanging numbers and emails to stay in touch. After one last meal in the dining hall, the weekend came to a close. Jane, Hank, and Townsend took the chance to thank all who attended and contributed to the celebration and the impact of such a gathering was evident with each one.

To all who came or sent in stories and pictures, we thank you and look forward to seeing everyone at the next High Rocks reunion.

most sought after babysitter in Western NC. Josh splits his time between climbing and working as a resident advisor for the Academy of the Sierras. We are lucky enough to have all three returning for the summer!

**Strickland Parks** graduated from Brevard College this past May with a bachelors in business which he has put to work in Durham, NC. We will all miss having Strickland around the area, and especially around camp, but visits have been fairly regular and it sounds like he is settling into his new life well.

**Andrew Frame** has been living it up in his first year at Edinburgh University. Several summer staff from last year have taken the opportunity to visit Andrew and see the sights, raving about his British hospitality. We are keeping fingers crossed that he will be able to break away once more this summer!



Hank Birdsong and John Carpenter

# High Rocks

PO Box 210  
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718  
www.highrocks.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Address Label Here

## Father/Son Week-

Father-Son Weekend 2007 was a huge success and we are planning another one for May 2-4. It is a great opportunity for new families to get a taste of camp and spend the weekend enjoying the outdoors. Activities will include canoeing, hiking, climbing, ropes course, swimming, fishing, archery, riflery, tennis and will conclude with a Saturday campfire. The festivities will begin on Friday evening and go through Sunday lunchtime. We are looking forward to more good times and seeing all the new faces!



Ben and Steve Shankle



Father/son pairs preparing for the high ropes course.



Bennett and Jesse Herman spending some down time over Star Wars chess.

## From Townsend's Kitchen

### **Chocolate Mousse Cake**

In a double boiler melt:

16 oz. semisweet chocolate  
1 pound butter

Add:

$\frac{3}{4}$  sugar  
1 cup  $\frac{1}{2}$  &  $\frac{1}{2}$   
1 Tablespoon vanilla  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt

Blend chocolate mixture when cool with 8 beaten eggs. Do not over beat.

Pour into Spring form pan greased and lined on bottom with wax paper.  
Bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees and no longer. It will look like it is not done but it is!!

Remove from oven and chill well before removing from pan.

Prepare chocolate glaze in double boiler:

6 oz. semi sweet chips (1 cup)  
2 Tablespoons butter

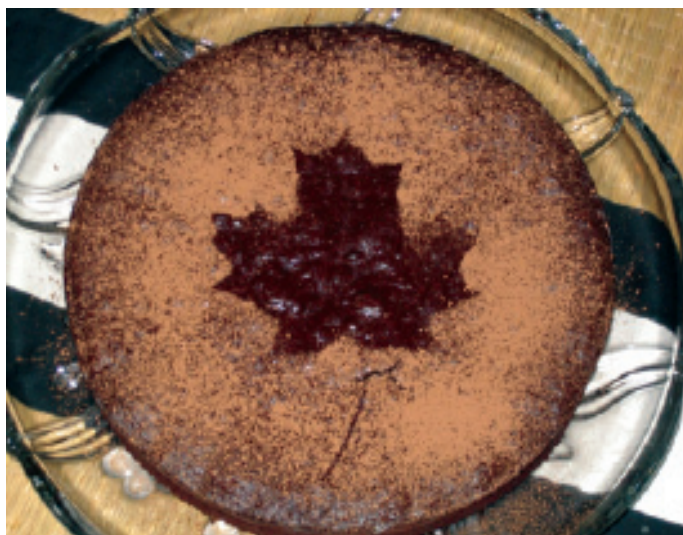
Whisk in:

3 T milk  
2 T light corn syrup

Pour over cooled cake and chill.

Can accent with powdered sugar or raspberries.

Enjoy!!



## Campership Fund is Thriving

Just a reminder that we are still building our camper-ship fund and are hoping to have enough to grant a scholarship for the summer of 2008. This scholarship fund enables children to attend camp that would not otherwise be able to do so. It was created in memory of camp founder Sumner M. Williams. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to:

**Community Foundation of Western North Carolina**

**P.O. Box 1888**

**Asheville, NC 28802**

Please write "Camp High Rocks Campership Fund" in the memo field of your check.

### **Many thanks to everyone who has given to the Campership Fund! Below are recent contributors:**

Ms. Polly W. Cordle  
Ms. Terrell Garrard  
Mr. William M. Parsons  
Ms. Sara M. Thompson  
Ms. Daphne L. Chalaron  
Mr. James P. Kurlito  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miles Foy  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick E. Justus  
Mr. Robert P. Foster  
Frances I. Jackson  
Dr. and Mrs. Jack B. McCallie  
Ms. Alston Kirk  
Mrs. Betsy Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Randolph  
Ms. Elise W. Haskell  
Mr. Timothy D. Warmath  
Mr. Toby D. Ives and Ms. Sally Broughton  
The Besieged Farm (Perry Patterson)  
Mr. and Mrs. Massie Ritsch  
Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow McKay Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Carter  
Stephen L. Cox  
John N. Gildersleeve  
Lisa H. Bankoff  
Mr. John P. Kendall