



## *Around the Rocks*

Thanks to one of the warmest winters on record, spring has come to High Rocks extra quickly this year. Already daffodils are in bloom, grass is growing, and our spring frogs have begun their annual chorus. It is exciting to have camp coming alive so soon and is making all of us ready for summer again!

Though the winter felt brief, camp has been just as busy getting ready for the coming season. A large contingent of High Rockers spent time in Atlanta at the AIC and ACA conferences. These two organizations put together a host of speakers involved in the camping field to bring awareness on issues and help spark new ideas for the approaching summer. It is also an excellent opportunity to share experiences with camping professionals from around the country. For our parents and other interested readers, please look on our website to find articles by Bob Ditter, Chris Thurber, and more for great ideas on prepping your young camper for a first-time camp experience or ways to engage them at camp without encroaching on their sense of independence.

Our facility maintenance crew of Danny Stewart, Zach Nichols, and John Carpenter has been hard at work on improvements across camp. They began the off-season with a full assault on the cabins of Halfway and Pinnacle. At the very top of Senior Hill, Pinnacle already enjoys some of the quietest rest hours in camp and a built-in fitness regimen on every visit. For this summer, the bathrooms on both sides were given a full face-lift making Pinnacle an even more desirable summer locale. Halfway



*Halfway II's new shelves, walls and bathroom will make it a favorite summer location.*

has long been our most asymmetrical building and the guys took serious steps to address the imbalance. The separating wall has been moved into the larger side making the square footage more equal and both sides received new custom-made cubbies and shelves to get (most) stuff off of the floors. Halfway II's bathroom is completely redone and its inhabitants will be blown away with the new full shower

and tons more space. Hillside also had its bathrooms taken down to the studs and new walls, floors, plumbing, and fixtures put in for our youngest. The guys then set their sights on the dining hall where they rebuilt every one of the tables! With such nice surfaces to enjoy a meal on, the next thought was to replace the overhead  
*continued on page 2*

## *55th Anniversary Weekend*

Come enjoy a weekend of friends, activities, square dancing, and a campfire! We are celebrating fifty-five years of High Rocks on September 14-16, 2012. Spread the word to fellow High Rockers. Housing, activities, and meals are provided by camp for all adult alumni.

Attendees are welcome to begin arriving throughout Friday afternoon for check-in and casual entertainment. The festivities will officially start with dinner on Friday at 6:00pm and run through Sunday breakfast at which point guests can stick around or begin their trek home.

Due to the large number of attendees expected, housing will be offered for adults only and grouped by gender. We will attempt to house people with peers and please feel free to make cabin requests. If you would prefer independent accommodations, there are a number of hotels and B&B's in the area. Even though it is after Labor Day, we recommend booking early as weddings and special events keep September a busy time in Brevard.

For more information and to register, please go to the Alumni section of our website. See you in September!!



*The 50th reunion was a huge success and we are hoping for even more alumni this September! Reserve your spot soon!*

### **Inside:**

- ◆ **Considering High Rocks?.....Page 3**
- ◆ **Father/Son Weekend.....Page 4**
- ◆ **Staff News.....Page 4**
- ◆ **Alumni News.....Page 5**

## Campership Fund is Thriving

The gift of camp is not just weeks of fun, adventure, and companionship but can create independence, confidence, leadership, and a sense of community. 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 and has helped several fine young men experience a summer at camp. If you would like to make a tax-deductable donation, please send a check to:

**Community Foundation of Western North Carolina  
PO Box 1888, Asheville, NC 28802**

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



## Around the Rocks *(cont from page 1)*

fans with monster motors and huge blades. There will be a new collection bin for loose hats and mail lost in the ensuing gale.

The weather continued to be so mild that it was time to get back outside and tackle some other projects around camp. With roughly a thousand acres of deciduous forest, trees require our constant attention and maintenance. Over the space of several months, the three guys removed dead/dying trees throughout main camp before they could become hazards. The shoreline by the fishing dock was opened up all the way down to the bridge by John Carpenter using ropes and a harness to trim branches up to about twelve feet; plenty of room for some overhead casting. Once all the work removing trees was finished, the focus shifted on planting new ones for the future. Elm, sugar maple, and blue spruce trees were planted all around camp and will be providing shade for thousands of future campers. Outside of main camp, our network of trails runs for miles and crosses many streams on



*The end of this tail needs no telling.*

the property. Serious work went into rebuilding some of the bridges used by hikers, bikers, and horses and the next push will be clearing all the debris from the trails that accumulates every winter. It is a ton of work, but what a resource for our program!

There has been a new addition to our High Rocks family in the form of a tiny, golden fluff ball named Barley Gentle. An instant hit with our year round crew, Barley is rapidly gaining size and personality in preparation for his first summer at camp. He romps with Tsali, worships Crescent (who does her best to deny his existence) and only barks when he can't contain his excitement over food. Barley can't wait to meet this summer's campers!

Beginning this summer, High Rocks has decided to go "Unplugged!" Camp offers an opportunity for campers to experience active living free of electronic stimulus. The absence of such solitary distractions will help strengthen the relationships formed in an already brief time. We are asking campers to please not bring any electronic equipment with them. Camp will provide opportunities for music at appropriate times during the day.

the property. Serious work went into rebuilding some of the bridges used by hikers, bikers, and horses and the next push will be clearing all the debris from the trails that accumulates every winter. It is a ton of work, but what a resource for our program!

### Activities

The wide activity selection of High Rocks is a focus of the program and is central to building connections to the camp, the people, and memories to last a lifetime. It is always an exciting time of year when we start planning for the coming summer.

With news of a wet summer on every boater's mind, the largely returning staff at the docks is already talking new ideas for the season. In June, the ACA Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver Nationals is coming to the Nantahala River and is open to anyone 10 years old and up. The organizers are encouraging participation over competition to attract interested boaters who are not experienced racers. While the full downriver course is all 8 miles of the river, the younger age classes will be paddling a 3 mile stretch which would end just upriver of Nantahala Falls. For years our July campers have enjoyed participating in the Camp Cup Races on the same river and now interested June boaters could have a chance at a similar experience.

After many suggestions last year for increased bouldering opportunities in the program, and much off-season work by Josh Baggett among others, the climbing program will incorporate more bouldering trips into the summer. Climbers will be visiting the Cathedral Rocks to explore more than 20 different challenges ranging from beginner problems to advanced head-scratchers. With new routes still being found, there might even be an opportunity to get a first ascent and name the climb!

The early warmth has made it possible to plant some cold-hardy vegetables like spinach, rainbow chard, kale and buttercrunch lettuce to supplement the herbs already growing. Even the catnip is coming back strong and will once again be a popular stop for campers on their way to riding with hopes of befriending the barn cats. Brussels sprouts grew all winter, but to the relief of many a High Rocker, will die soon in favor of summer crops. Our usual heirloom tomatoes, hot peppers, squash, edamame, and melons will all be back.



*Mortgage Lifters, Green Zebras, and Cherokee Purples are some of the delicious tomatoes grown!*

*continued on page 3*

## *Around the Rocks* (cont from page 2)

The barn is the site of more off-season projects for campers and staff to enjoy this year. It began with gutting the tack room from the ceiling down to acid-washing the floor. Here is the new setup that riders have to look forward to this summer; it looks straight out of Churchill Downs! New cubbies, saddles racks, and jumps were also built for the riding program. There is even a new carrot garden to provide treats for a favorite



*There are several mystery ponies painted in the tack-room. Let's see who can find them all!*

Our riding director, Blaire Cannon, sent me these updates on some of the new additions to the program: Willow is a sweet bay pony. She is 14.1 hands tall and is pictured here with one of her foals. Before she became a broodmare she showed on the Hunter Circuits and even though she's small, she packs a punch!

When Blaire test rode her, Willow handled herself like a little lady. She is super friendly and cute and will be seen most often in the round ring this summer. Cappuccino is a bay

roan pony and stands 14 hands tall. She was an eventing pony in Pennsylvania, an equestrian contest comprising dressage, cross-country, and show jumping. She loves to jump and she really likes beginner riders. She is cute as a button! Sylvester is a super cool guy that we will be borrowing from a friend that Blaire rode with on the ECU Equestrian team. He is a hunter-jumper around



*Willow with her one of her foals and Cappuccino showing off over a jump. Both will be exciting additions this season!*

15.3 hands who is lots of fun and has tons of personality. He hates bugs, so camp is going to be a wonderful vacation from the summer coastline. He will be ridden mostly by counselors but some campers will be able to earn a chance to ride him in the big ring. Draggio, one of Blaire's personal steeds, rounds out this group of new horses. Standing an impressive 16.1 hands tall, he is an off the track thoroughbred. His last race was in Pennsylvania about five months ago. He is very sweet and is learning a lot in his new world at camp. He is the great-great-grandson of racing heroes Secretariat and War Admiral and will do just about anything for a

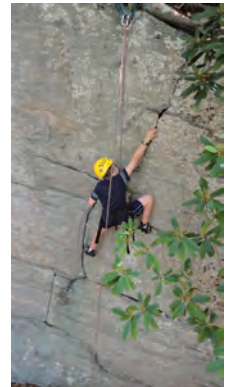
peppermint! He will be a counselor horse only and will be used to lead in the ring or on trail rides.



*Sylvester will be a more advanced horse for campers to work towards and Blair Cannon is shown with her new buddy Draggio.*

## *Considering High Rocks?*

This time of year we frequently get asked what session would be right for a first time camper. High Rocks has two sessions designed for young guys new to camping. Our one week is the most basic experience and provides a short snapshot of what camp is all about. The cabin groups and their counselors travel together throughout the day to get a taste of most of our activity selections and to be pushed outside their comfort zones in a beginner lesson plan. This session is a sampler plate of what camp has to offer. Since their time at camp is so brief, the full days with their cabin group still allow the boys to make strong friendships which they can carry over to a longer session the next year.



Our Two Week session from July 30-August 11 has long been a first experience for new or young campers. Major differences are that all campers are here for the same amount of time and campers create their own schedules with activities they choose, laying the foundation for personal growth and independence. While the program is geared towards beginner skills, there are trips out of camp and a progression in each activity. The longer session also gives campers time to work through the normal feelings of homesickness and really settle into enjoying camp with enough time to make it a lasting impression. In many ways, this provides the perfect blend of an introduction to camp and a formative residential experience. Some availability remains in the 2 Week session but please call soon!



## Staff News

We love hearing from current and past staff, wherever their ventures may take them. Here is what some of our High Rocks family has been up to in their off-time. Now that he is finished with college, **Scott Martin** is involved with a variety of non-profits in Boone, NC and leading trips for a local high school through Appalachian Teen Trekkers. He is also a mentor with Mountain Alliance helping teens restore a wooden sailboat. **Stephanie Satrape** had a chance to study in Argentina this winter. She lived in Buenos Aires and even got a chance to backpack through Patagonia! We look forward to having her back on the equestrian staff this summer. **Andrew West** is returning to camp for another season even as he applies to law schools and prepares for his wedding. We are lucky enough to have his fiancé, Abi Wilson, join us for this coming summer as well. Andrew will be back on climbing staff and Abi will be helping to run the hiking program. **Bryan Ham** left High Rocks last summer heading for Prague in the Czech Republic. He



*Ham will be back at camp this summer!*

began by taking a TOEFL course in accordance with his continuing interest for international education. From the news we get, he seems to have settled into his new city with gusto. In fact, it sounds as if one of the only downsides to life in Prague is the difficulty in finding proper Haribo gummy bears. **Nate Dixon** is working with Wafels and Dinges in New York City, a group of roaming waffle trucks and carts that require daily locating in the city. With offerings like a waffle topped with BBQ and coleslaw to a specialty dish that emerged victorious in the Throwdown with Bobby Flay; the Belgium-inspired company is rapidly becoming a favorite. Nate is enjoying the big city lifestyle at the moment, but is beginning to crave returning to the south and pursuing teaching again. **Chris Hampson** and **Ashley McDonald** moved back to Breckenridge for their second year of Colorado winter living. They have enjoyed their time so much, despite the somewhat anemic snowfall, that they are settling in the area for the foreseeable future. **Chris Dorrity**, the climbing director of High Rocks, married his long time climbing partner Laura Moseley this winter! Luckily Laura is great enough to allow us to have Chris back for the 2012 summer. **William Foreman** is busy down in Oxford, MS teaching tennis at the Oxford Park Commission. He is working hard to build the tennis program and will be teaching full time there this year. While we will miss him this summer, we know there will be some serious tennis talent coming out of Oxford soon! **Andy** and **Liz Glas** relocated to Chattanooga where Andy is a coordinator for the outdoor program at Southern Ad-



*Chris and Laura cutting their climber's cake!*

ventist University. Liz just couldn't stay away from a mountain bike and is offering a month-long clinic for any women bikers looking to advance their skills. **Jim Toman** checked in recently from his home in Hawaii where he is living in Hawi. He has been keeping busy building zip line courses, surfing, climbing, and generally living the good life. There are rumors he may be seen back this way soon! **Julianna Day** is planning on hiking a portion of the Appalachian Trail with her brother this spring before returning to camp for the summer. She has visited camp several times in the off-season and can't wait for campers to begin showing back up! **Stuart** and **Katie Crawford Dodson** are a common sight around town, as is their daughter Wylie who is a spitting image of a young Katie. Katie also has the big news that she is now the published author of Keowee Valley, an historical adventure set in the Revolutionary-era Carolinas and in the Cherokee country, forthcoming in September 2012. Congratulations! **Will Brechter** moved to Portland, Oregon this past year where he is now the Volunteer Engagement Advocate for Habitat for Humanity. He will be attending the Masters of Architecture program at the University of Oregon but it sounds as if he still finds some time to play with reports of great ski outings and indoor soccer leagues. Keep the stories and adventures coming!



*Toman looking stressed out and over-worked as usual.*

**Will Brechter** moved to Portland, Oregon this past year where he is now the Volunteer Engagement Advocate for Habitat for Humanity. He will be attending the Masters of Architecture program at the University of Oregon but it sounds as if he still finds some time to play with reports of great ski outings and indoor soccer leagues. Keep the stories and adventures coming!



*Katie, Stuart, and Wylie getting set for a family costume party.*

## Father Son Weekend 2012

Father-Son Weekend 2011 was a huge success and we are planning another one for May 18-20. 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 a Saturday night 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! Applications can be found on our website.

*Family Bruce conspiring to catch a bass and bluegill in unison at Father/Son 2011! Come enjoy fishing on our lake and many more activities all weekend long. There is still some availability so be sure to register soon.*



## Alumni News

**Leland Grant** (92-99) has most recently been sighted on our TV screens as a member of The LiNE on NBC's The Voice. The now-famous duo formed in 2008 on Leland's first visit to Nashville, TN where he met Hailey Steele. After years of perfecting their signature country harmonies, the two auditioned on The Voice with "American Girl" by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. They brought the house down and got all four judges to turn. Congratulations Leland! If you are interested in hearing more



*Leland and partner Hailey hitting the big time!*

check them out at [www.thelineofficial.com](http://www.thelineofficial.com). **Alex Gregor** touched base with us from his new home of Chelsea in New York City where he is working with a Acumen Fund identifying promising entrepreneurs in southeast Asia to receive funding. He still finds time to hit the rivers though as he sent his Fritz Orr paddle down south to get a touch up. **Ben Little** (99-03, 04-11) and Crystal Clusiau left Cedar Mountain this past fall in search of new adventures in the form of a massive road trip across the country. They left loaded down with bikes, snowboards, camping equipment, and tons of High Rocks connections to hit up along the way. From bike parks to Moab, hipstering in Portland to skiing Whistler, they had an epic trip and kept us all entertained back on the mountain. Now they have settled down in Charlotte, NC and are near enough for a visit! **Chris Bankoff** (89-95, 01-04) is getting married in April to Ananda Reavis. They met in Los Angeles through their common careers in the visual effects industry. The wedding will be in Savannah and should have a solid contingent from High Rocks present. **Daniel Sullivan** (86-90) and his wife CaraMiya Davies-Reid are living in Maui where they own a store specializing in tribal art from central and south Asia. While travelling Daniel also accumulated photo stories about different tribal cultures and the challenges they



*Spencer Berg taking it all in!*

are facing in an increasingly modernized world. Check him out at Daniel Sullivan Photography on Facebook. He is currently self-publishing a book of collected experiences called Tribes of the Omo River in an attempt to raise awareness and aid for the Ethiopian peoples along the Omo. **Davis Berg** (89-93, 08) is living in Washington, DC when not out fly-fishing and travelling to some amazing locales around the world. He and his wife Coventry recently had a baby boy, Spencer. **Jack Monaghan** (04-11) sent word that he has been accepted in West Point's



*Daniel Sullivan in Bamain, Afghanistan*

class of 2016! He was deciding between that and the Merchant Marine Academy and settled on becoming a member of the Corps of Cadets. Congratulations Jack! **Johnny Ward** (02-09) recently got in touch from Sewanee where he is enjoying life in his freshman year. True to High Rocks form, he finds himself outside exploring the university's 13,000 acres of campus, hitting rivers, and is now teaching others how to climb. **Fletcher** (07-11) and **Jake** (08-11)



*Merrill and Chuck Keeley at Uhuru peak on Kilimanjaro*

**Keeley** will both be returning for 2012. Fletcher graduates high school and will be an AC for the full season before heading off to Colorado College. Departing from tradition, their parents made the newsletter with a photo atop Kilimanjaro proudly displaying the High Rocks water bottle that helped get them there. **Alex Taylor** (99-06, 08) a long time High Rocker recently asked Emily Sutton to marry him. They met here as fellow staff and are continuing the long tradition of camp couples. They both live in Raleigh where Alex works for Apple and Emily is with an animal hospital. **Troy** (00-05, 07-11) and **Massey Ziemann** (00-04, 07-08) have checked in from their respective sides of the country. Troy is working for an environmental consulting firm in Richmond, VA and just got word that he will be moving to Charlotte this summer. This is great news as he will be close enough to visit us and our nearby rivers. Massey is still living the western dream in Jackson, WY and kindly makes us all jealous with his stories. He is taking full advantage of the world class skiing and beautiful rivers for his kayak. **Lewis** (95-99, 03-06) and Maggie **Lovett** report some great news from their home in Charlottesville, VA. They recently had a baby girl named Eloise Kathryn! Lewis is busy as the Middle School Student Director at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in addition to being a new father. **Chase Ferree** (00-04, 09-10) is studying at Washington University in Saint Louis. With his camp experience, he is a natural fit for his resident advisor position and enjoys filling free time with his improvisational theater group, Pot Roast. We are excited Chase will be back at High Rocks this summer as our Head of Hiking! As always, we love to hear what all of our High Rocks family has been up to over the years. Please send us stories, pictures, and updates to let us know where you are and what you are doing. And of course, check our Alumni section of the website to connect with old friends!



*Alex and Emily:  
Congratulations to you both!*



*Little Ellie Kate has no idea how lucky she is with her two parents, but we have to question her sports loyalties...*

# High Rocks

PO Box 210  
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718  
[www.highrocks.com](http://www.highrocks.com)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Address Label Here

## *From the Kitchen*

### ***Forget-Me Meringues***

2 Egg Whites (extra large, room temperature eggs)  
¾ Cup Sugar  
Pinch Salt  
1 tsp. Vanilla  
6 oz. pkg Chocolate Chips or Mint Chocolate Chips  
1 Cup Pecans or Walnuts (chopped)  
Optional: food coloring for a desired theme

Preheat Oven to 350° for at least 15 minutes. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add sugar gradually, continue beating until thick and heavy. Add salt and vanilla. Fold in chocolate chips and chopped nuts. Drop by teaspoon on parchment paper-lined cookie sheets. Place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> racks of oven. Shut off oven and leave closed overnight. Put in covered containers or tins lined with wax paper. Keep tightly closed.  
Bon Appetit!

