



CAMP JEWELL YMCA UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lewis Fox Corn Roast: Aug. 9
- August Family Camp: Aug. 22-25
- Labor Day Family Camp: Aug. 29-Sept. 1
- Women's Retreat: Sept. 12-14
- Mother/Daughter Riding Weekend: Sept. 26-28
- Columbus Day Family Camp: Oct. 10-13
- Greater Boston Alumni Event: Oct. 18
- Halloween Harvest Fest: October 25
- 6th Annual Wine Tasting: Nov. 1
- Woodcutter's Weekend: Nov. 14-16
- Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner: Nov. 16
- New Year's Family Camp: Dec. 29-Jan. 1

THE REAL JEWELL

YMCA of Greater Hartford



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP JEWELL YMCA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1
Summer 2014

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- Corn Roast

CAMP JEWELL YMCA
A Branch of the YMCA of Greater Hartford
6 Prock Hill Road, P.O. Box 8
Colebrook, CT 06021
campjewellymca.org

The YMCA for **Youth Development**: Nurturing the potential of every child and teen, for **Healthy Living**; Improving the nation's well-being, for **Social Responsibility**; Giving back and providing support to our neighbors. The YMCA of Greater Hartford is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 1852 and is one of the nation's oldest YMCAs. The YMCA strives to serve all regardless of their ability to pay.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP JEWELL YMCA



THANKS • GRACIAS • GRAZIE • MERCI • DANKE • OBRIGADO

All of what we do at Camp Jewell is rooted in the relationships we create with others—staff, campers, families and our volunteers. Joy Shure, the program coordinator for Nature's Classroom (N.C.) at Camp Jewell YMCA, gets that and has helped to bring the N.C. staff and Y staff together as a community.

Joy came to Jewell in the fall of 2012 as a teacher for N.C. and became program coordinator the following year. What she has brought to Jewell is more than what she does as N.C.'s program coordinator. She has been instrumental in bringing the N.C. and YMCA staffs together for volunteer work weekends, social gatherings and fundraising events. She considers Camp Jewell her home and she thinks it only makes sense to develop relationships with the people around here, regardless of whether they work for N.C. or the Y.

Whether it's volunteering to blaze a new trail, hosting the Y staff for dinner, attending the Wine Tasting and camp's holiday party, Joy and her team recognize the value of working together and creating a culture of cooperation. She credits the people around her—both N.C. and Y staff—for making the relationship such a positive one.

It's Joy's personality that makes the difference, and we are thankful she and the entire N.C. team are part of our Camp Jewell YMCA family. Thanks, Joy, for all you've done to bring us together!



Joy Shure, Nature's Classroom Program Coordinator and Camp Jewell YMCA Volunteer of the Year.

RAY'S ROUNDUP

There's a lot happening at camp right now in terms of long-term, capital improvements that we're making to our facilities. Some projects have already been completed, some are underway and some have yet to begin. When I look at the improvements we have completed over the past two years and how they've benefitted the kids and families at camp, I find it offers inspiration for the vision and hard work of what is to come.

One of the completed capital projects that impacts kids every day is the sports complex: Thunderdome, the new sports court and the ga-ga pits. Every time I walk by that area during transition times I see it flooded with kids, and I know why. It's because the majority of the activities offered there are modifications to traditional sports like baseball, tennis and dodge ball. The modifications even the playing field, making it possible for nearly every kid to experience success. Thunderdome, our wiffleball stadium, slows down the game of baseball so that the less athletic kid can compete with the more athletic kid, and they all have fun.

Pickleball slows down the game of tennis so that first-time players can get the hang of the game more quickly and have fun playing. The three ga-ga pits near the Trading Post (and the two at Hide-A-Way) slow down the game of dodge ball so that heterogeneous groups made up of boys and girls of all age groups and abilities can play together and have fun. Ultimately this kind of successful interaction among kids has a lot of benefits, but the biggest one is that it builds community among diverse members of our greater camp population.

The new docks, made of a solid plastic mold and installed two months ago, have had a huge impact on campers' experiences at the waterfront. In addition to making the waterfront safer by eliminating the possibility of splinters or injuries from hinge points, screws or nails, they have enclosed the swimming area and allow faster access to the rope swing. By closing off the back of the swimming area we have created an environment where kids have something to hold onto no matter where they are, making it more welcoming. More kids are motivated to advance their swim skills because they see more of their peers going off the rope swing now that they can walk to it from the docks. They want to join their friends.

As I see the fruits of our labor I am excited to move forward with two more phases of our campaign: the Taylor Manning Water Park and building new cabins. The water park will include three shallow concrete pools, a waterfall, walkways and natural plantings that are welcoming to our younger campers and less skilled swimmers, and our family campers with young children. Our cabin upgrades will offer our summer campers and year-round guests a more comfortable stay in more efficient accommodations.

I invite you to become part of these exciting changes at camp. Come for a visit and see them yourself; join one of our committees tasked with the planning and fund development process. I would love for you to participate in whatever way you wish and I welcome your ideas, insights and passion for camp and the improvements we are making here.

Ray Zetye
Executive Director



70th ANNUAL LEWIS FOX CORN ROAST



**Come re-live your camp memories
at the 70th Annual Lewis Fox Corn Roast!**

Saturday, August 9
Family activities start at 1 p.m.
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Corn Roast at 7 p.m.

**This year's Doug "Scoobie" Ahrens Awards
will be presented to:**

Bill Devlin (Executive Director 1976-1984)
**Peter Dowling (Camper & Staff Alumnus,
Former Board Member)**
**Francis Gray (Hartford YMCA General
Secretary/CEO 1937-1961)**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP JEWELL YMCA



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PAST: Courts, Rope Swing, Docks & Zipline

Over the last three years, Camp Jewell YMCA has invested more than \$170,000 in capital improvements to program areas at camp. Our new recreation area includes state-of-the-art surfacing, basketball hoops, a pickle ball court, four square and ga-ga pits.

We have completed the first phase of improvements at the waterfront, including new docks and a rope swing. Our new zipline, near the ski hill, now allows participants to ride over the finger of Triangle Lake not once, but twice.

All of these projects were made possible thanks to generous gifts from the Cole Family, The Roraback Fund, Camp Rising Sun and memorial contributions made in honor of Donald Reese.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRESENT: Taylor Manning Project



A rendering of the Taylor Manning Project. The view is from Centennial Lodge looking North over the waterfront area. Construction has begun and the project is on schedule to be completed by the end of this fall.

The Camp Jewell Water park is a dream project we are bringing to life. The staff and volunteers of camp have worked hard to design a facility to suit the needs of all kids. We considered a pool, thinking more kids would be enticed to swim in it instead of a lake. But we were concerned few kids would choose to swim in the lake if a pool were available. We believe swimming in the lake is a tenet of summer camp, bringing kids closer to nature.

The result is a water park that uses lake water but encourages kids to interact with water in a more comfortable and more familiar way.

The water park was one of many projects on a long list of priorities, until two years ago when a family with close ties to Camp Jewell reached out to us. Dean and Kristen Manning wanted to make a permanent improvement to camp in memory of their 13-year-old daughter, Taylor, who unexpectedly passed away. Of all the projects on the list, this is the one they chose to celebrate Taylor's life.

The facility consists of three ponds less than a foot deep, incorporating elements of waterfalls, bridges, fountains and natural landscaping. The end result is a play area for kids in keeping with camp's values.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUTURE: Cabin & Facility Upgrades

Our new, state-of-the-art cabins will be the most environmentally-friendly facilities at camp. Combining efficiencies with aesthetics, each new cabin will offer campers, students, families and group leaders the amenities they want while maintaining a durable and rustic style that feels like "camp." The updated cabins will have twice the bathroom fixtures of the current cabins, separate sleeping areas for chaperones from students, expanded individual bunk storage space and a more functional mud room area. Featuring efficient insulation, doors and windows, along with radiant floor heat, the cabins will offer significant energy savings.

Improvements to the welcome area, including a large open air pavilion and park-like greeting space, will enhance the first impression we give our guests and campers. Additional facility upgrades will feature a covered riding arena, additional year-round staff housing, relocated maintenance facility, boating dock, and new sailboats.

Help make our story YOUR STORY by getting involved. Camp is looking for volunteers to participate in both the planning and fund development process.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping prepare camp for the next hundred years of service to our community please contact Ray Zetye, executive director, at 888-412-CAMP or ray.zetye@ghymca.org.



Above left, renderings of new cabins. Above right, the new welcome pavilion to be built across from the current camp office.

GREATER BOSTON ALUMNI GATHERING

October 18, 2014

At the Home of
Gordon & Gail Hodne
30 Oakland Street
Medway, Mass.

Bring your camp photos, yearbooks and stories to share with fellow alumni! Good food, laughs and fellowship guaranteed for all who attend.



Bonnie Rosenberg and Ali Feen Koss at the Alumni Gathering in New York City in June.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: BURT SCHUMAN, CAMPER 1936



It's a common occurrence for alumni to reconnect with Camp Jewell via Facebook, an old camp friend, or even a visit to Colebrook to walk through camp and see what's changed and what's stayed the same. Most of these alumni have a camp story that began within the last 50 years. It's less common that we hear from alumni who attended Jewell when it was on Lake Swanzey in New Hampshire (camp moved to the current site in 1955). But that's exactly what happened a few months ago.

Burt Schuman, a Camp Jewell alumnus from 1935, recently came across a blue ribbon he won while at camp that was mailed to him from the YMCA of Greater Hartford. Still in its original envelope postmarked September 16, 1935, the letter might be a good addition to camp's archives, he thought. Burt contacted Ray Zetye, camp's current executive director, who thanked Burt for giving camp the blue ribbon, and later met with Burt at his home in Rocky Hill, Connecticut to hear more about his camp story.

"I went to camp with my cousin Syd Norwitz and we had such a great time," Burt said. "There was a lot of competition between the boys but the thing I noticed most was that it was congenial competitions. A lot of times when you get a bunch of guys together there is generally some turmoil, but it wasn't like that." Burt's not sure what competition he won to earn the blue ribbon, but he jokingly remembered his friends giving him a hard time about how poorly he performed in the swimming contest. "Sid told everyone I was a great athlete, and he signed me up for the swim meet, but the truth was I was the worst swimmer in the world."

Syd passed away in 1965 and Burt remains close with Syd's two children, Jeff and Leonard, who also attended Camp Jewell.

He remembers that sports dominated the activities at camp, primarily on a big field area cleared specifically for that purpose. Arts and crafts and leather were offered, and he recalls the lake with a floating dock that would change its location based on how hard and in what direction the wind would blow, and that was surrounded by mud at the bottom that would come up to your knees.

Burt was originally from New Jersey, but he spent a lot of time, including summers, helping on his grandparents' farm in Colchester, CT. Though sending him to camp was considered expensive, he said his parents made sacrifices to send him. Originally a dairy farm, his grandparents shifted to raising chickens and one of Burt's uncles stayed back to help while he was away at camp. In some ways being at camp was a break for him because he was used to waking at 4 a.m. to feed the cows, piling manure behind the barn and tending to other responsibilities on the farm. As a self-reliant 11 year old he said it wasn't hard to be away from his family for the month he was at camp.

He went on to serve in the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Division and said camp helped him adjust to life as a soldier. "Camp helped me learn to live in multiple surroundings. I learned to deal with different kinds of people, and I needed to know how to do that to survive—it helped me survive sharing a bunk with 36 other guys in the Army."

Burt went on to study art at Parsons School of Design and worked for big display companies in New York City. He started a food brokerage company to help market his friend's Pennsylvania-based cheese company and he still works today as a wildlife artist. Images of his art can be found at www.burtschuman.com.

"Camp molds your personality and your values," he said. "Camp Jewell had a great impact on me, it really did. What I experienced and the interaction I had with other people helped me get along."

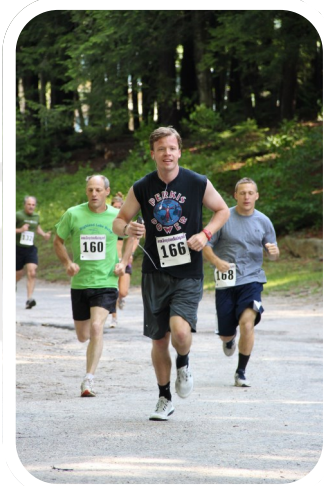


Burt Schuman, second from bottom on the stairs, at Camp Jewell in Swanzey, N.H.

FUN RUN RAISES OVER \$3,200

Thank you to all the runners, walkers and volunteers who joined us for the 4th Annual Fun Run 5K to benefit our Annual Campaign. We raised \$3,200 to be used toward scholarships for children and families to participate in Camp Jewell YMCA programs regardless of their ability to pay.

If you missed the Fun Run but want to support the cause, it's not too late to contribute to the 2014 Annual Campaign. Gifts can be made online at www.campjewellymca.org or by calling us at 1-888-412-CAMP.



Camp Jewell Credo:

"We come together for this short time to live simply, close to nature and closer to each other; that we might renew our respect for the world around us, recommit ourselves to family and friends, and rejoice in God's love for us all."

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