

# The WOODPILE



**What is a woodpile? It is at the base of all great campfires. In its written form, a woodpile is the ideas and connections between camping professionals that provide the spark of yet another amazing camp experience for our campers.**

## Summer Preparations By: David Long

As we all know, the preparation for summer begins long before the campers actually arrive. Actually, the plans for summer of 2008 began while the dust of summer 2007 was still settling and continue through the cold winter months...sometimes right up to the very first day of camp. Brainstorming sessions grow into program planning meetings, focus groups and parent input sessions, marketing strategies followed by designing decorations and more. All this without even mentioning all the facility maintenance and upkeep that has to happen eventually. I am sure that as you take a quick moment to peruse this newsletter you are waist deep in this process of summer preparation.

It is during this most busy of times that I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be in the profession in which I find myself today. The ability to work side by side with like-minded and motivated individuals that believe strongly in challenging, equipping and empowering the next generation is a core benefit of my career that I often take for granted. I am encouraged regularly by the dear people at my camp that I call teammates. I am a better administrator, father, teacher, husband and individual because of the team of which I am privileged to be a part. I have spent some time with other camp professionals this year at gatherings like ACA Michigan's Winter Conference, the ACA National Conference and most recently the CCCA Michigan Conference. There were people at each of these venues who also acted as motivators in my life. I feel very strongly that I need to be a part of a bigger picture in order to be effective. I need people pulling me higher and I need to be offering my hand to others around me.



I guess my encouragement to you this Spring is tri-fold. First, hesitate for a minute or two and celebrate the great profession of youth development in a camp setting. Secondly, find time and opportunity to thank those people that have been an encouragement to you along your path. I certainly have many people to hug! Third, intentionally identify those individuals around you to whom you can pour your life and energy into. This will make us all better and be a major step in our goal of challenging, equipping and empowering the next generation! Have a great summer!

David Long

ACA Michigan President





## ACA Standards News

The most recent/current version of the APG Standards/Interpretations Updates are now posted on the ACA Web site. The following two documents are available at:

<http://www.ACAcamps.org/accreditation/hyes.php>

1. Document inclusive of all revisions to the Accreditation Process Guide 2006 from May 2007 through January, 2008.
2. Document that includes only revisions effective January, 2008.

Both documents are formatted so they can be printed front/back, so you can replace the page with corrections.

## ACA Visits Summer 2008

ACA visit assignments won't be coming out until the beginning of April due to the late arrival of materials from ACA national

## ACA Mid States Conference!!! - BE THERE!!!

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Leadership Courses (see next page)

ACA Courses

ACA Bookstore

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Michigan Section gathering—Friday night—Join us!

For more information and to register go to:

[www.acamidstates.org](http://www.acamidstates.org)

# American Camp Association Mid States Camping Conference

## LEADERSHIP COURSES

### AT MID STATES CAMPING CONFERENCE



Ten outstanding and exciting Leadership courses will be offered during the day, Thursday, April 10 at Mid States prior to the opening of the Conference April 10-12, at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois. In addition to the 10 Leadership courses, 5 ACA courses will also be offered. Leadership Courses start at 8:00 to 10:00 AM and end between 4:00 to 5:30 PM, just in time for the opening session of the Mid States Camping Conference.

All courses are taught by experts in the field and pre-registration is required. Course titles are listed below as well as the registration cost. The course fee does not include lunch. A full description of the courses as well as presenter bios and registration forms are on the Mid States Web site, [acamidstates.org](http://acamidstates.org). Persons interested in a courses should register as early as possible and absolutely before April 1. After that time some courses may be full or cancelled. The presenter's email address is listed if you need additional information.

- 1) **Scott Arizala**, [scott@thecampcounselor.com](mailto:scott@thecampcounselor.com) **Do You! Professional Development for the Ideal Camp Director**, 10:00-4:00 PM, cost \$50.00 per person
- 2) Leader: **Michael Brandwein**, [mbrandwein@aol.com](mailto:mbrandwein@aol.com) **Super Skills for Leading, Directing and Supervising Superb Camps**, 9:45-4:00 PM, cost \$65:00 per person
- 3) **Maggie Braun and Cathy Scheder**, [maggie@campwehakee.com](mailto:maggie@campwehakee.com) **So Much to Do, So Little Time: Redesigning Staff Training**, 9:30-4:00 PM, cost \$50:00 per person
- 4) **Greg Catalano**, [gcatalano@earthlink.net](mailto:gcatalano@earthlink.net) **Are You Ready for the Summer?**, 9:00-4:00, cost \$65:00 per person
- 5) **Bob Ditter**, [bobditter1@aol.com](mailto:bobditter1@aol.com) **Creative Counseling Skills–Working Effectively with Today's Campers**, 9:00-4:00 PM, cost \$60:00 per person
- 6) **Linda Erceg**, [erceg@campnurse.org](mailto:erceg@campnurse.org) **The Basics of Camp Nursing.**, 8:30-4:30 PM, cost \$150.00 per person
- 7) **Mary Beth King**, [mking@grgsc.org](mailto:mking@grgsc.org) **Project Wild**, 9:00-4:00 PM, cost \$15.00 per person
- 8) **Jeff Leiken**, [jleiken@mentorcounselor.com](mailto:jleiken@mentorcounselor.com) **Leadership from One Step Behind - Progressive Skills and Strategies for Leading Millenials**, 9:30-4:30 PM, cost \$65.00 per person
- 9) **Jodi Rudick**, [jodi@advisorsmarketing.com](mailto:jodi@advisorsmarketing.com) **'Marketing! But We've Always Done it That Way' No More! How to Break Through the Past and Blast into the Future**, 9:00-4:00 PM, cost \$65.00 per person
- 10) **Gretchen "Banana" Vaughn**, [gretchen@outofthemountains.com](mailto:gretchen@outofthemountains.com) **Camp MBA: Using the Best of the Business World to Take Your Camp from Great to Unbelievable**, 10:00-4:00 PM, cost \$55.00 per person



## ACA Courses

For additional information about ACA course offerings, contact **Gordie Kaplan**, ACA, Illinois, 67 E. Madison St. #1406, Chicago, IL 60603, 312-332-0833, 312-332-4011fax, [gordie@ACAil.org](mailto:gordie@ACAil.org)

- 1) **ACA New Director Orientation**, 8:00-5:00 PM, cost \$60.00 for ACA members, \$70 for non-members.
- 2) **ACA Standards Course**, 9:00-3:00 PM, no charge
- 3) **ACA Standards Update Course**, 9:00-noon, no charge
- 4) **ACA Visitor Update Course**, 1:00-5:30 PM, no charge
- 5) **ACA Basic Camp Director's Course**, April 6-10. This is a 5 day course and will be conducted at a camp northwest of Chicago. **For additional details see the Mid States Web site: [ACAmidstates.org](http://ACAmidstates.org).**



## ACA WINTER CONFERENCE, A GREAT NEW EXPERIENCE:

It was a great new experience attending the ACA Michigan conference in January as a newer member of the section. It was excellent in many ways, and a truly great opportunity to learn, and to gain a new awareness of current trends and issues that affect our camps. It was valuable also to discuss these things with other people who take camping seriously, and who are trying new things and learning what might work at their camps and in their organizations.

The variety of educational sessions provided lots of opportunities to pick and choose. The opening keynote speech from Mr. Bob Ditter, discussing current generational differences as they affect camp is a great example of the kind of thought-provoking but practical and useful information that was presented and shared throughout the conference. One particular session was titled "Innovation in Camping," and the problem of how to innovate while preserving traditions was discussed, that included many ideas from around the table. Those kinds of relevant discussions with so many camp experts are what seem to define the conference as being truly worthwhile.

Attending the conference was a great decision, and I feel more prepared for the upcoming season because of it. One of the critical areas is licensing, so it was great to have Darrell Clay from DHS camp licensing available for a long discussion in the evening. Many of us asked questions of him. It was a special opportunity, because this was a good size group, and the variety and scope of the discussion reflected the different camps and their perspectives.

For ten seasons working on summer camp staff, the work and purpose of the ACA was not terribly familiar to me. But a few years ago I became a year round camp ranger for a BSA council, and resources like ACA were just what was needed to bolster my knowledge of camping. Thankfully, the Michigan section exists as one of the best resources around. The conference last January is just one example of the hard work being done by people in this section to improve camping in our state.

Nick Carr, Ranger

## ACA, MICHIGAN 2008 AWARD WINNERS



**Distinguished Service Award Recipient**  
**Jim Van Wingerden**

Jim VanWingerden was awarded the **Distinguished Service Award** for over 20 years of outstanding continuous service to ACA, Michigan.

Mary Walker was awarded the **Honor Award** for outstanding contribution of service to ACA, Michigan..



**Honor Award Recipient**  
**Mary Walker**

## INSIDE ACA

### ACA and Healthy Learning Announce New Titles for Spring 2008

An exciting array of new learning tools including books, workbooks, training DVD's, and training tools are now available through ACA's publishing partner, Healthy Learning. Take a look at what we've added to our growing portfolio of camp-related learning resources — and just in time for camp. For titles, descriptions, pricing, and orders, visit the ACA bookstore (<http://www.acabookstore.org>).

**Designing Quality Youth Programs** is a user-friendly step-by-step process that helps a director identify and intentionally target an area for improvement. This workbook comes with an extensive array of samples, templates, and other useful materials based on findings from our Program Improvement research project. [www.acabookstore.org](http://www.acabookstore.org)

**Year 3 of the 5-year Healthy Camp Study** is coming soon as we approach the summer of 2008. Many camps from across the US are benefiting from this camp injury and illness monitoring study but we want to involve many more camps. <http://www.acacamps.org/research/healthycamp.php>



### INSPIRATIONS

I hold in my hands, a box of gold  
With a secret inside, that has never been told  
The box is priceless, but as I see  
The treasure inside, is far more precious to me  
Today I share, this treasure with thee  
It's the treasure of friendship, you've given to me

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people

Beautiful young people are acts of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.

### ACA Michigan's New Message Board

You asked, we listened and took the necessary steps to make it happen. Thanks to the efforts of Paul Bidwell at the ACA National office we now have a vehicle to communicate with other folks in Michigan. Just follow the link below and once you are on the page just scroll down to local offices and click on ACA, MI.

<http://www.acamessageboards.org/forum/ubbthreads.php>



**The ACA, Michigan  
office will be closed  
April 7—11, 2008**

## Children & Nature - What the Research Shows

### RESEARCH-BASED INDICATORS OF THE NATURE DEFICIT

- Children today spend less time playing outdoors than any previous generation. 82 percent of mothers with children between the ages of 3 and 12 cited crime and safety concerns as one of the primary reasons they do not allow their children to play outdoors. (Clements, 2004)
- Today's children have a more restricted range in which they can play freely, have fewer playmates who are less diverse, and are more home-centered than any previous generation. (Karsten, 2005)
- Children's free play and discretionary time declined more than seven hours a week from 1981 to 1997 and an additional two hours from 1997 to 2003, totaling nine hours less a week of time over a 25-year period in which children can choose to participate in unstructured activities. (Hofferth and Sandberg, 2001; Hofferth and Curtin, 2006)
- Children between the ages of six months and six years spend an average of 1.5 hours a day with electronic media, and youth between the ages of 8 and 18 spend an average of 6.5 hours a day with electronic media—that's more than 45 hours a week! (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2005 and 2006)
- Obesity in children has increased from about 4 percent in the 1960s to close to 20 percent in 2004. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006)
- 62 percent of children do not participate in any organized physical activity and 23 percent do not participate in any free-time physical activity. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003)
- The percent of children who live within a mile of school and who walk or bike to school has declined nearly 25 percent in the past 30 years. Barely 21 percent of children today live within one mile of their school. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006)
- While 71 percent of adults report that they walked or rode a bike to school when they were young, only 22 percent of children do so today. (Beldon Russonello and Stewart Research and Communications, 2003)  
Children & Nature Network 2
- 94 percent of parents say that safety is their biggest concern when making decisions about whether to allow their children to engage in free play in the out-of-doors. (Bagley, Ball and Salmon, 2006)
- Children predominantly play at home, with their activities monitored and controlled by adults, compared to children a generation ago. Only 3 percent of today's children have a high degree of mobility and freedom in how and where they play. (Tandy, 1999)
- Children can identify 25 percent more Pokemon characters than wildlife species at eight years old. (Balmfold, Clegg, Coulson and Taylor, 2002)

## RESEARCH-BASED INDICATORS OF NATURE'S BENEFITS TO CHILDREN

- Contact with the natural world can significantly reduce symptoms of attention deficit disorder in children as young as five years old. (Kuo and Taylor, 2004)
- The greener a child's everyday environment, the more manageable are their symptoms of attention-deficit disorder. (Taylor, Kuo and Sullivan, 2001)
- Access to green spaces for play, and even a view of green settings, enhances peace, self-control and self-discipline within inner city youth, and particularly in girls. (Taylor, Kuo and Sullivan, 2001)
- Green plants and vistas reduce stress among highly-stressed children in rural areas, with the results the most significant where there are the greatest number of plants, green views and access to natural play areas. (Wells and Evans, 2003)
- Proximity to, views of, and daily exposure to natural settings increases children's ability to focus and enhances cognitive abilities. (Wells, 2000)
- Nature is important to children's development in every major way—intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically. Play in nature is especially important for developing capacities for creativity, problem-solving, and intellectual development. Therefore changes in our modern built environments should be made to optimize children's positive contact with nature. (Kellert, 2005)
- Children will be smarter, better able to get along with others, healthier and happier when they have regular opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors. (Burdette and Whitaker, 2005)
- Positive direct experience in the out-of-doors and being taken outdoors by someone close to the child—a parent, grandparent, or other trusted guardian—are Children & Nature Network 3 the two factors that most contribute to individuals choosing to take action to benefit the environment as adults. (Chawla, 2006)
- Children who experience school grounds with diverse natural settings are more physically active, more aware of nutrition, more civil to one another and more creative. (Bell and Dymont, 2006)
- Outdoor experiences for teens result in enhanced self-esteem, self-confidence, independence, autonomy and initiative. These positive results persist through many years. (Kellert with Derr, 1998)
- Factoring out other variables, studies of students in California and nationwide show that schools that use outdoor classrooms and other forms of nature-based experiential education produce significant student gains in social studies, science, language arts, and math. One recent study found that students in outdoor science programs improved their science testing scores by 27 percent. (American Institutes for Research, 2005)
- Studies of children in schoolyards with both green areas and manufactured play areas found that children engaged in more creative forms of play in the green areas, and they also played more cooperatively. (Bell and Dymont, 2006)

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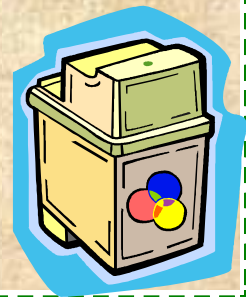
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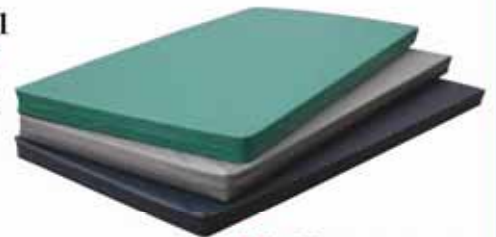
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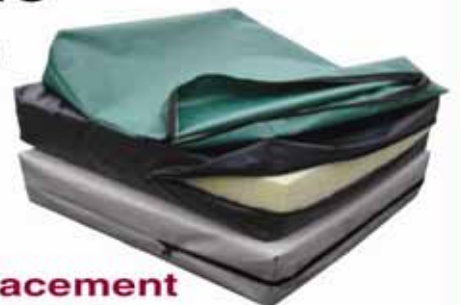


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