

# Gwynn Valley

Since 1935

Millwheel  
News  
December  
2008

*Season's Greetings*

## Green Is Nothing New for GV!

Recently, when a gas shortage struck much of the southeast, Anne and I began to really think about our driving habits and how we could conserve that \$4.00/gallon fossil fuel. We were both surprised by ways we could carpool, cut unnecessary trips to town and really save fuel, and time for that matter. I think we are all aware that living a life mindful of conservation and moving toward a "Greener" existence is very important.

This fall I attended the regional American Camp Association conference where the theme was "Green Spoken Here". A good bit of the conference focused on what the camping industry is doing in the "Green" realm. Through the years Gwynn Valley has been quietly moving in this direction. I say quietly because we have really not touted our emphasis in this area although it has been part of the Gwynn Valley philosophy

for many years. As I began to think about our journey into "Green", I spoke with Dale Robertson who has been a part of that journey and has been an advocate of going Green here at camp. Those of you who don't know Dale may just see him on opening and closing days, directing traffic and directing his staff in getting you in and out of camp in a way that allows you to focus on your children. Dale is our site manager and has

been at Gwynn Valley for over thirty years. The following are some of the things that Gwynn Valley has been doing over the past 5 to 15 years under Dale's leadership:

- Recycling paper, plastic, glass, and metal for over 10 years
- High efficiency lighting in over half of the cabins; these have been run from batteries for over 10 years
- Water saver shower heads that use 2 gallons per minute,

saving up to 40% in water usage, heated water usage, and water that enters our septic fields (goes down the drain);

- Water saver toilets in 90% of our cabins and bathrooms
- Utilizing compact fluorescents throughout our program for over 5 years
- Growing approximately 70% of our food and raising our own beef which lessens our carbon footprint by eliminating food transportation by wholesalers and purveyors
- Heating 70% of camp's hot water with wood that is down or dead on property; 15% of that wood goes into building projects (cabin siding, roofing, etc.)
- Composting our uncooked kitchen waste
- Grinding cornmeal and churning ice cream by the energy from the mill
- Utilizing our web site as a means by which to access camper applications, staff applications and parent handbooks which saves paper

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## E-Mail Correspondence

In September we sent out an on-line survey to all of our camper families requesting your feedback from the summer. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. It's essential that we get input from our families in order to do the best possible job at Gwynn Valley. The survey itself was hosted by a company called Constant Contact. We checked them out thoroughly before utilizing their services to ensure there would be no repeated advertising or sharing of emails by the company. We will again use their services at the end of each session next summer to get feedback from parents and campers about their camp experiences.

With that in mind, we want to urge you to provide an up-to-date email address that we can use to get in touch with you for these types of correspondence. Of the approximately 800 emails that we collected from camper applications and used to send the survey, close to 80 of those were invalid. We're already seeing a shift in the way camps are doing business and Gwynn Valley among others is moving toward less generation of paper and more direct correspondence via email. Traditionally we send out quite a bit in hard copy in the form of reminders and dates for registration etc. We still plan to mail applications and other important documents throughout the year, however, we will continue to increase the use of email and our website.



# The Joy of Giving

There are many joys in working at Gwynn Valley: the beautiful environment, the history, the values and traditions, but most importantly it is about the children. As the days and years go by, we are privileged to watch these children develop greater self concepts, more personal independence, stronger decision making skills, and confidence. We get to watch them get muddy, laugh, play, make friends from many new places, and experience the magical 'Child's World' where the key values of acceptance, simplicity, a non-competitive program, and an appreciation for the natural world have been the mission at Gwynn Valley Camp for 73 years.

Another goal and joy at Gwynn Valley is being able to provide opportunities to children who without the help from the Gwynn Valley Campership Foundation would not be able to experience Miss Mary's Child's World. From Mary Gwynn's time, camp has strived to create socio-economic diversity amongst its campers. In 1988 Howie and Betty Boyd, who directed camp for 30 years, had the vision to establish a foundation which would ensure that scholarships would remain an integral part of Gwynn Valley for as long as it exists. The Gwynn Valley Campership Foundation which is held by the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina has continued to grow throughout the years. In 2008, the Endowment provided 20 magical weeks of camp for 10 children who would not have been able to attend camp without the help of so many who make up the Gwynn Valley family. Thank you to all those who have contributed throughout the years and have helped send a child to camp.



Our efforts are ongoing and your gifts will help send children to camp for generations to come. We hope you will consider a tax deductible donation to the fund and will continue to remember there are many children who will benefit from your support. If you are interested in supporting this important effort, you can make a contribution to The Gwynn Valley Campership Foundation / CFWNC and send the check to our camp address or you can make a donation on line by going to [www.cfwnc.org](http://www.cfwnc.org) and clicking on the Donate Now emblem on the right hand side of the page. Please be sure to fill in the designation box with Gwynn Valley Campership Foundation when making a donation.

## Many thanks to those who have contributed to the Gwynn Valley Campership Fund since our last newsletter

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Antin  
Howie and Betty Boyd  
Anne and Grant Bullard  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carlton  
Art and Elizabeth Cleary  
Ed and Debbie Cloaninger  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cook  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Creedon  
Toby Dewitt and Rosalyn Carson-Dewitt  
Olivia Gage  
Phil Gallo  
Pat and Narelle Goldie  
Jann Graham  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Guest

Jim and Mary Lou Gwynn  
Frank and Cate Holcombe  
Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes  
Mike and Rebecca Jackson  
Brendan Kemp  
Nancy Mangum  
Joanna McCullough  
Donna Messier-Christian  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Oshinski  
Phyllis Sippel  
Gerda Stein  
Kathy Thompson  
Mark and Ginger van Valkenburgh  
Kate Ann Vogel  
Louise Williams  
Susie Woodall  
Robert Yowell



## A Life-Shaping Experience

We received a wonderful letter this year from a parent whose children attended camp for three summers through the Gwynn Valley Campership Foundation. This mother's letter speaks to the true spirit of Gwynn Valley and the value of the experience the Endowment provides.

Dear Gwynn Valley,

Thousands of children and parents pass through your life but in our life there is only one Gwynn Valley. My three children attended your wonderful camp several times over 7 years ago. You, your kindness and the marvelous Valley are topics of conversation at our home all the time.

All three of the kids are in high school. They all are in the honors program and are doing very, very well academically. They all are on the golf and tennis teams. In addition, they are in ROTC, Civil Air Patrol and Navy Seal Cadets.

They still talk about gathering eggs, making cornmeal, fishing, horseback riding and picking vegetables. They have strong work ethics and a sense of responsibility that I attribute to the ideals and values they learned at Gwynn Valley. They all are kind, compassionate people who have a sensibility about others that I also attribute to the exposure to different people and different capacities of people at Gwynn Valley.

You were kind to my children and provided them a safe haven. I'll never be able to adequately thank you for the stability and guidance you freely showed my children. The impact of their Gwynn Valley experience has shaped their lives in such a positive and strong manner.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart. We often go to your website and look at the beautiful scenery. The pictures always bring on a flood of wonderful and funny memories which will be cherished all their lives.

I hope everyone at Gwynn Valley is well. I also know that the world is a better place due to Gwynn Valley being here for our children.

Take good care.



# Josh Williams

We have been deeply saddened and grieved by the passing of Josh Williams in September of 2008. Josh was a long time camper and staff member here at Gwynn Valley. He was a camper on Brookside and Mountainside, and came back as an SIT, Intern and Cabin Counselor. Josh was last on staff in 2004.

Josh loved Gwynn Valley and it showed. We remember his wonderful smile and the way in which he dove into his work as a cabin counselor, as well as his work in the kitchen. He did a great job as a counselor with his first priority always being that of his campers.

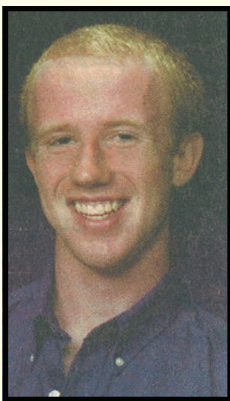
After working at Gwynn Valley, he became a systems designer for McMaster-Carr, an industrial supply company in Elmhurst IL, a suburb of Chicago, where he also lived. In high school, he spent his junior year in France. In college he majored in the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine, and worked as an intramural sports manager and for the University of Chicago Press. He loved soccer, art, travel, and canoeing in Canada with his grandfather. Our condolences go out to his parents, Robin and David, sister Marissa, and brother Matthew. May God hold Josh and all his family in the palm of His hand.

In honor of Josh, his family requested that memorial contributions go to the Gwynn Valley Campership Foundation. Through the donations of family and friends the Joshua Anderson Williams Scholarship has been established to provide a week of camp each summer for a child who would not be able to attend Gwynn Valley without financial assistance. Josh's love and enthusiasm for camp will be passed on to many young lives for years to come.

The following family and friends gave memorial gifts in Josh's honor:

## Donations in Honor of Josh Williams

Ms. Kristine S. Andrews  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad W. Baker  
Mr. Neil Winger and Ms. Jane S. Berger  
Mr. and Mrs. James Bernhardt Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark L. Bonnell  
Ms. B. Jane Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Grant Bullard  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Carfagna  
Mr. Roger C. Simmons and Ms. Lisa Cianci  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A Cohen  
Mr. and Mrs. David Conklin  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher H. Craig  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Clifford Craig  
Mr. Peter T. Craig  
Mr. and Mrs. Dickson R. Dawson  
Eastside Kickers / Heights United Soccer  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Field  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Flechtner  
Ms. Alice L. Goddard  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gray  
Mr. and Mrs. Lamont Hansen  
Mr. and Mrs. Pinchos Hecht  
Ms. Christine E. Henry  
Ms. Mary Hill  
Ms. Marguerite S. Hughes  
Ms. Janice M. Kahn  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Kuenzel  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Lauer  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence V. Lindberg  
Mr. Paul Livant  
Ms. Marcia J. Mauter



Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Maddern Jr.  
McMaster-Carr Supply Co.  
Ms. Barbara C. McWilliams  
Ms. Sandra Milroy  
Ms. Joan M. Nuth  
Ms. Joyce E. Olson  
Mr. and Mrs. William Pearson  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry T. Peterson  
PTS – Student Association  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Schneider  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen D Seftel  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Shields Jr.  
Mr. Daniel Sukys  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher D. Tabor  
Ten Thousand Villages of Cleveland  
Ms. Imogene Truox  
Ms. Grace D. Uhle  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Yahn

## Alumni News

### Births

Anjali Linda Singh MacPhee February 14, 2008  
to Jocelyn and **Ian MacPhee**

Greysen Ella Motley March 30, 2008  
to **Bernadette Merrimon** and Aaron Motley

Joshua David Gordon April 11, 2008  
to **Matt and Libby Gordon**

Eleanor Ruth Hammonds June 8, 2008  
to **Hannah and Andrew Hammonds**

Marley Kai Nordmann June 24, 2008  
to **Tommy and Annmarie Nordmann**

Benjamin Segal Ware October 31, 2008  
to Stephanie and **Greg Ware**

Molly Zuzanna Porter November 3, 2008  
to **Justyna and Stu Porter**

### Marriages

**Shelley Moore** and **Jeff Heath** August 30, 2008  
**Cate Shaw** and **Frank Holcombe** November 1, 2008

### Passages

**Tiffany Halloran Tiplady** June 21, 2008  
Marley Kai Nordmann June 24, 2008  
Bertha Jean Lance July 6, 2008  
**Josh Williams** September 2, 2008



## "Tajar Tracks 2" Soon to be Released

Campers and staff were busy this summer recording more of our favorite camp songs for a new CD. Please check our website for news on the release date and information on how you can purchase a copy. Campers were involved in many aspects of the recording and production, including the cover art.



# Gwynn Valley

301 Gwynn Valley Trail  
Brevard, NC 28712

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BREVARD, NC  
PERMIT NO. 95

Web site: [www.gwynnvalley.com](http://www.gwynnvalley.com)  
Email: [mail@gwynnvalley.com](mailto:mail@gwynnvalley.com)



## Green is Nothing New Continued from Page 1...

At the conference, the more I spoke with other camp directors the more I realized how progressive we really are. It's been a conscious effort to make Gwynn Valley a place that really has a strong connection to the values of the land and to educate our campers in this realm. We're a business that uses many resources and has a lot of impact but there are always ways to improve and make our system better. Looking ahead, we've focused on some long and short range projects that will keep us attuned to our commitment to the environment and more importantly our commitment to a better world for our children and their children.

### Future Projects:

- Erect a windmill that will provide power to pump water to the farm
- Utilize environmentally safe cleaning products
- Compost kitchen waste in a more environmentally friendly manner
- Replace plastic dinner ware (used for picnics) with biodegradable dinner ware
- Build a Pelton Water Wheel that would power all of camp (this is a long range project that was first looked at in the late 80's)
- Install solar hot water on roofs where there is enough direct sun
- Apply Green design techniques to future facilities and buildings
- Move toward more on-line correspondence and registration forms with families to save paper

We look forward to achieving this and more as we continue the journey toward a Greener existence.

## New Mailing Address

Due to new addresses being assigned throughout Brevard, Gwynn Valley has a new mailing address. Please make note:

Gwynn Valley Camp  
301 Gwynn Valley Trail  
Brevard, NC 28712

## Reunion Date Set

The date for the 75th reunion of Gwynn Valley Camp has been set for August 20-22, 2010. We are excited to begin the planning process and will be sure to keep you updated through our website, as well as via mail and email regarding the details. Alumni: Please visit [www.gwynnvalley.com](http://www.gwynnvalley.com) and complete the short Alumni Update Form to ensure we have your most recent contact information, especially your email address.



Alumni pose for a group photo at the 60th reunion in September of 1995.