



BROWN LEDGE CAMP

ALUMNAE LEDGER

FALL-WINTER 2012-2013

www.brownledge.org

A SENSE OF PLACE

By Kathy Neilsen

Has there ever been an organization with a greater sense of place than Brown Ledge? What we value is what we have always had. Alums and current campers and staff are connected to not only the people and the philosophy of Brown Ledge, but also to the physical camp itself, to water and trees and little cabins with bark siding.

As most of you know, early last month a fire destroyed ten cabins on the eastern side of the grove. After any loss, the body and mind rally to do what is necessary. Early assessments are made and then modified as more information surfaces. News about the event is gathered and distributed - to the board, the staff, the press, and to Brown Ledgers around the world.

The "experts" arrive on the scene. In our case, insurance agents are consulted, the architect is enlisted, the builder is scheduled, and the forester and conservation biologist are invited out to visit. Daily decisions need to be made and clear thinking is required. There is no time to think about what has been lost.

And then..... As the crisis becomes less immediate, there is time for reflection. One side of the grove as we knew it is gone. What now? How do we as Brown Ledgers incorporate this new reality into our sense of our treasured place?

Two days ago, we happened across a picture from 1927 that shows the very first group of Brown Ledgers. (This photo appears on page 2.) Seventeen counselors and twenty six campers are lined up in the grove in bloomers and leggings, midi blouses, and long, draping ties. Behind them are the white and red pines and the cedar trees that characterized the old grove. Through the trees, four cabins and the double decker are visible. The picture provides a stark reminder of not only what we lost, but also of how much had already changed in this

area of camp in the many years before the fire. New cabins were built to accommodate the growing camper population, squeezed in amongst the original grouping. Even more dramatic was the change in vegetation. Slowly over the years, the pines and cedars aged and weakened and because of the rock ledge and shallow soil, many came down prematurely in wind storms. In the 1970s, grass was added



to a section of the grove in front of the dining room (and carefully replanted and nurtured each year) because, without the canopy, the pine floor of the old grove had turned to dust in the dry weather and mud when it rained.

And then, after the new dining room was built, we discovered the wood chip! Already, deciduous trees were beginning to replace the pines and cedars, a natural forest progression we're told. The addition of yearly truck loads of wood chips not only made for comfortable and aromatic footing, but more importantly, they began to decompose into more soil so that new trees (this time maples) could be successfully added each fall. The grove was slowly but surely being "re-groved."

Our memories of every part of camp - dining room, theater, waterfront, barn - are shaped by our era at camp. Those of us who came to BLC before the 1970s become nostalgic remembering the old piney

BULLETIN BOARD:

- * Want to see photos from this summer? Go to www.brownledge.smugmug.com. The galleries are password protected with last summer's password being *pothouse*.
- * Want Brown Ledge Clothing? Go to www.amerasport.com and enter Brown Ledge Camp!
- * Contact Liz Bell with your email address if you want to be added to the monthly Brown Ledge enews to keep in touch with camp!
- * Be sure to inform Liz Bell of any address changes.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
O'FISHEL NEWS	3
2012 SECOND YEAR JCS	4
MILESTONES	5
NEWS FROM YOU	6
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	8
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT	11
BLC INFO	12

➡ Continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Liz Smith Strimple

December 2012 was a month none of us will forget. The fire destroyed ten cabins and seventy trees but it did not destroy our spirit, our memories, or our friendships. Brown Ledgers worldwide are reconnecting to rebuild the camp that shaped us, nurtured us and bound us together in a unique sisterhood. We all want future generations of young women to experience “the complete and different camp” - to become self-confident, to become achievers, to become friends for life with bunkies.

And what a difference we have made! Hundreds of alums, campers, parents, staff and friends have donated their time, talents and treasures. The response has been, and continues to be, overwhelming. Let’s not lose this “going forward” momentum. We still have lots to accomplish, including stable and theatre improvement campaigns to fund, a new Annex to build and scholarship programs to maintain. Brown Ledge will have a prosperous new year in 2013 with your continued support.

On January 27, 2013 we held a Brown Ledge celebration reunion at Green Brook Country Club in North Caldwell, NJ. The Neilsens and Board members welcomed campers and alums for an afternoon of good friends, food, fun and raffles. We introduced new BLC blankets, water bottles and pens! (Check out the photos on page 7.) I hope many of you will come to Alumnae Camp this summer and see for yourselves our new Grove and Annex. Also, start gathering items for the Silent Auction and let me know what you’re donating. We appreciate everything!

ALUMNAE CAMP 2013

Alumnae Camp is in the planning stages. It will take place from Friday, August 16 to Monday, August 19, 2013, which are different from the first dates posted online. You can expect to get registration information in the mail shortly and details will also be included in the eNews sent out by Liz Bell. If you are interested in donating an item for the Silent Auction which benefits the MPB Scholarship Fund, return the inserted colored sheet in this Ledger to Liz Strimple.



→ SENSE OF PLACE Continued from page 1

grove and the simple wooden benches that connected trees and provided casual seating there. There is another generation of campers that wistfully recalls lazy hours sprawled on a small but perfectly located patch of grass. The era of the wood chip already has a strong following. The memories of counselors and JCs spreading impossibly high mounds of chips around camp in preparation for opening day will always symbolize “the grove” to many younger alums. And the campers of 2013 will be excited to be the first residents of new, log-sided cabins that are carefully constructed and placed to fit in with the old.

Most of the time change comes gradually. But sometimes change arrives unexpectedly and dramatically on a windy December Sunday afternoon. **Harry Brown** was most certainly not thinking



about anything like a fire when, in his [Patterns of Brown Ledge](#), he wrote, “Change and the unexpected are good, they furnish the salt, the savor, the spice of life.” And yet the sentiment

holds, even now. Our traditions ground us, but gradual or dramatic, change is a constant of life. And once again, no matter if the change is chosen or thrust upon us, we Brown Ledgers have proven to be extraordinarily good at moving forward. As we bring in the New Year, we raise a glass to both the old and the new. Most importantly, we toast you, the Brown Ledge community. Though the memories you hold differ from generation to generation and person to person, you have reached out to let us know that the value of your Brown Ledge days remains in your hearts. Your support in this time of change has meant more than words can convey.

O'FISHEL NEWS

By Melissa Fishel Mauer



Well, there has certainly been lots of talk about fire! So I won't go on about it, but I will say that it did shake me to my core when I heard about it. I was very thankful that our neighbors, the **Cordners**, were home and quick to respond. Let's thank our lucky stars, as things could have been much worse! We will rebuild. We have the great team of **Bill, Kathy and Kim** to see to that. And with our very own cheerleader, public relations person extraordinaire and major fundraiser, **Lyda Blank**, hopefully we will have the funds to come back even stronger! We have handled it in the usual Brown Ledge fashion. We "stick together like the number one team" that we are. We have "spirit that never dies". There's "nobody like us".

My mother would have been so upset about the loss of our beloved cabins, but at the same time, she would have been so proud to see how everyone responded. My father, however, is still not aware of the fire and loss of cabins. He is such a worrier and has gotten worse. As we all know, Fred was also "Mr. Safety" and fire at camp was always his biggest fear. I imagine I'll break the news to him eventually, just deciding when. Despite some dementia, he still follows the weather report each day and is always proactive when bad weather is approaching. For many of us, our memories of Fred either involve a "Fred talk" or a vision of him sitting on the upper porch of the point house with his binoculars, listening to the weather channel on the radio in his office.

Switching gears my daughter, **Megan**, and I recently attended a relative's wedding, who also happens to be a Brown Ledger. My cousin, **Meredith Grieff** (camper, JC and counselor, 2000s) was married to Patrick Owens on December 8th in Charleston, South Carolina. It was a beautiful ceremony set on the marshes of Wadmalaw Island. They had perfect weather and she was a beautiful bride. A fellow Brown Ledger, **Katie Reynolds (Edie Plimpton Fleeman's daughter)**, attended the ceremony as well. It was great to see her. Meredith and Katie had been bunkies from skunk junction all the way



through the JC program. While in Charleston, Megan and I managed a quick visit with **Bill and Jean Lincoln Bartlett**. Bill was a sailing counselor (and head of sailing) for many



summers and Jean grew up at camp. We attended their wedding on Cape Cod several years ago and now we were

there to celebrate the birth of their son "Bo". He was 2 weeks old when we visited and oh, so cute! They have a nice home with water rights and boat launch just a couple doors down. Jean looked great and they seem very happy and content in their neck of the woods of South Carolina.

While in Charleston, my brother Chip, brought my father down for a brief visit with Megan and I. They live in Florence, about 2 hours away. It was bittersweet to see my father. It was great to see him and spend a little time with him, but difficult to witness the continued decline. My father was such a big, powerful man, but no longer. We've never been apart for more than 2 months at a time, so that's been an adjustment. Thank goodness (kind of) for phones. He calls me at least 7 or 8 times a day and admittedly, I don't always answer (can't when I'm with patients, which is most of the day). He never seems to know what time of day it is despite getting him a talking watch. He calls ALL hours of the day and night. The other night he called me at 8pm to say goodnight. Then again at 11pm to say "good morning, it's time to get up". I said "Dad, it's eleven o'clock at night and it's really time to GO BACK TO BED!".



So, in the end, we have our memories and we have each other. We will have new cabins, new landscaping and more memories to make. But best of all, we have Brown Ledge Camp. I hope to see everyone at Alumnae Camp 2013!



WELCOME SECOND YEAR JC'S AS ALUMNAE

By Liz Bell

We welcome the 2012 graduating JC's to the Brown Ledge alumnae group. These 21 young ladies are wonderful additions to the alumnae clan for Brown Ledge Camp!



Lisa Johnson, Tennis; Nora Bess & Erin Baecher, Riding



Erica Heinz, Hannah Schwartz & Isabelle Fenn, Theatre Arts



Henley Shull & Haley McCrudden, Diving



Chloe Hewins & Hannah Livant, Sailing



Lauren Aldoroty & Katie Tracey, Riflery



Kiley Boland, Molly Prybylski & Christy Harris, Waterskiing



Natasha Buckham, Jennifer Kater, Maile Jones & Noa Cohen, Canoeing & Kayaking



Laura Townsend & Jamie Dalglish, Archery

MILESTONES

We welcome some new additions to the Brown Ledge family. Congratulations to all!

Lyric Sage Stelling, the daughter of **Annabel Lukins Stelling (85-89)** and Peter Stelling. Lyric was born July 27 at 6:32pm. "She's 6 lbs 9oz, utterly perfect and deliciously adorable."

T-Spoon Hart McLaughlin (Riding Staff 03-05) and her husband, Sean, welcomed Kate McLaughlin into their family on October 29, 2012. She will be a future Brown Ledger, for sure!

Mills Knight Howland (03-08) and her husband, Josh. They welcomed Margo into their family in December, 2012. Margo Elizabeth Howland born 12-13-12. 8lbs!!!! "We love her she's just so precious!!"

Alex Slack Hindle (93-98) and her husband, Rick, welcomed their first child into their family on January 3, 2013. Nathan Philip Hindle was 7.4 lbs. and all are doing well!

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**Wedding bells are in the air!** Congratulations to **Molly Hislop (00's & Staff 11)** and **Jacob Robinson (Staff 11)** who recently got engaged!  
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Congratulations go out to the following Brown Ledgers who recently got married!

BLC Alumnae and actress **Eva Amurri (90's)** got married on October 29th to soccer broadcaster Kyle Martino in Charleston, S.C.

Lindsey Mixon (88-94, 96-97) married Terrance Atkins in early October, 2012

Arianna Knapp (80-85, 04-06) married Chris Stickler in early October, 2012

Laura Parisi (93-99, 01-02, 04) married Martin Peters in September, 2012

Julia Proctor (96-04) married Phil Aroneanu in Rangeley, Maine on August 18th, 2012. They were married on the side

of a mountain on a glorious summer day. Brown Ledgers in attendance were **Diana Kelly, Judith Anfo Dry, Wycky Proctor and Pamela Proctor.** Julia and Phil live in Brooklyn, NY and love being a part of the BLC in NYC community.



Our condolences go out to family and friends of Toni Ladenburg Delacorte (58-64) a camper, JC and BLC Board Member, who died on Friday, October 5, 2012 from complications due to lung cancer. Toni's battle was relatively



brief, as the diagnosis was made only late last spring – but she never gave up or gave in. She has many dear and wonderful friends, but BLC was the heart and soul of her life. Her brother, Nils Ladenburg, will come to camp next summer to celebrate Toni's life with her



bunkies and friends. Notes can be sent to Nils at: 132 High Dune Loop, Southern Shores, NC 27949. He would also welcome phone calls (cell phone: 252-202-8492), as he is worried that he may have missed some of Toni's BLC family. Bobbi Degan Atz described Toni perfectly – "wonder-full woman – amazing friend – gutsy – tenacious – creative – funny – friend and Bunkie... It is so hard not to be sad - but Toni wants us to celebrate her life - and definitely not be sad!"

Second year JCs from 2008 got together in NYC to ring in the



New Year. Pictured left to right are: **Alex Meltzer, Alex McClure, Hayley Donor, Sari Meltzer and Sarah Title.**

Stay up to date with Brown Ledge and your fellow alums by receiving the monthly Enews messages!

If you aren't yet receiving the monthly ENews messages, which keep you updated on all that's happening with BLC alums and the status of the campaign, you can easily sign up to receive those! On the BLC web site opening page, just click on the "Email Sign up" link that is in white cursive directly under the "camper" and "alumnae" drop down menu links. Just click on that "Email Sign Up" and fill out the necessary information. We'll get you connected ASAP!



NEWS FROM YOU

Robin Ratner (80s) reconnected after being invited to the NW BLC reunion. “Although I have been out of the alumnae loop for some time (written with guilt), Brown Ledge is always present in my life as its such a deep part of who I am and is indelibly imprinted on my heart. Hearing from you made me realize that being reconnected with camp would be so much sweeter than just reminiscing as I so often do, particularly in the summer, of course. I have a four year old little boy named Shay and have been singing him the good night song to him since he was born. He now has it memorized along with other of my favorite camp songs and I have been pitching BLC since my days ended there! I was a year below **Tildy LaFarge (75-83)** but absolutely loved. I saw Tildy years ago at **Jane Reilly’s** wedding in NYC (she was a camper for just a few years) and have been close friends with **Didi Bender Romley (81-84)** since our camp years. I also keep in touch with **Amandine Poncet deNantes (91-96)** who is a family friend and who went to Brown Ledge due to my and my mother’s strong recommendation.”

Upon finding a pile of Adopt-a-Horse Contracts in a 2007 file, **Liz Bell** sent a copy of a few of them to recent Riding JCs. **Nora Bess (Riding JC 11-12)** received her contract for adopting “Delta” in 2007 and she sent Liz the following note: “Hey Liz! Just got the little momento in the mail and it was such a throwback! It’s funny how much Brown Ledge horses can influence the rest of our lives (I probably never would have bought a horse if I hadn’t adopted one first). Thanks so much for sending it and I hope all is well!”

Allison Stevens (72-73) found us on line after being ‘lost’ from the alumnae list many years ago. She wrote, “I cherish wonderful memories of my time at Brown Ledge long ago! Especially tennis with Coach **Jeff Buckman**, riding with my JC **Di Glossman**, waterskiing with **Stephanie Zimbalist**, joking with pals like the **Diver sisters, Sue Harned, Amy Stifel & Mary Barton**, waking to reveille in my cabin, Skunk Junction, sharing quality time with our beloved **Barbara Winslow** and so much more!! ... My fiancé, Dallas Robbins... and I have created an enchanting spiritual animal retreat near Holden Beach, NC. We hope to start a Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program someday soon for at-risk youth, plus mentally and physically – challenged individuals in the coastal area.”

Curt Brown (66-69,76) has posted a beautiful symphony on youtube. He posted a note about it on our BLC Facebook page. “If anybody’s interested, a symphonic comp of mine called Brown Ledge Suite is on YouTube. You can just Google Brown Ledge Suite by Christopher Brown. I wrote it a few months back, but now seems as good a time as any to share it.” It is a wonderful piece to hear!



Elena Barr Baum (80’s) wrote: “Gary and I had **Grant Neale** over for dinner the night before we went to see him play his signature role of Frosch in *Die Fledermaus* on opening night at the Virginia Opera. He played a very physically comic drunken prison guard (who does not sing) and stole the show. Go BLC!

Just before going to press, **Melissa Fishel Mauer** sent an email: “I had dinner with **Di Glossman** and **Ada Koransky (1960s)** on Friday. Di was here for her usual winter of back and forth between Florida and Pennsylvania for her horses and competition. Ada was here from California checking out the winter equestrian scene (specifically the dressage Masters) in the horse capital of the nation, Wellington. Ada was a diver at camp, but now rides and competes in dressage with her horse. It was great to see them both and neither has changed a bit. We spent several hours catching up. I also wanted to make note of a fantastic accomplishment of one of my bunkies, **Donna Miller (70s)**, who was the United States Eventing Association 2012 Master Amateur Intermediate Rider of the Year! I also want to send out condolences to **Wendy and Ann Wergeles (60s & 70s)** whose father, Ed Wergeles, an award winning photographer, died on January 6th in California.”

As Editor of the Alumnae Ledger, the time before and after



Christmas is filled with thoughts of camp as I usually use this time to prepare this publication for you to read. The highlight of this season was a weekend

visit from my Hang Out Bunkies and lifetime friends, **Krista Irmischer (90’s)**, **Kat Yaroschuk (90’s, 12)** and **Ann Kirzl (90’s)** and her dog, Fred. We had a great visit reminiscing about camp and hanging out. Twylla would have enjoyed the card playing as well! I also had a wonderful time at the latest Brown Ledge Reunion held at the Green Brook Country Club in North Caldwell, NJ this past weekend. Despite being 7 months pregnant, **Taylor Strimple Keenan** and her mom **Liz Smith Strimple** organized a wonderful event



MORE NEWS FROM YOU

attended by about 50 Brown Ledgers. It was especially fun for me as there were alums who I know well from Alumnae Camp, current campers who are just as excited to return to camp as I am in June and some former campers like **Rachel Merdinger-**



Kalafer and Tracy Meerwarth Pester who reconnected with camp after many years. **Cathy Brodie,** pictured left and **Polly Atkins**

Moretti pictured on right with her daughter, Anna, joined **Bobbi Albright Gille, Mary Lou Albright**



Johnston, Liz Bell, Sarah Bell, Lyda Blank, Jamie Dalglish, Ali Gewirtzman, Mary Beth Gruber, Amy Hengerer Przybylko, Diana Johnston Minor, Nancy Josephs, Natasha Knorr, Hannah Livant, Beany Richter, Bill & Kathy Neilsen, Hilary Strimple, Martia Patrick Gordon, and pictured on the right **BJ Martin and Pamela Proctor.** There are more photos from this reunion and others held recently on the Brown Ledge Smugmug and Facebook pages. I hope that you get to reconnect with your bunkies at future gatherings and to see you at Alumnae Camp! **(Lori Angstadt, Editor)**



BELONGING TO A CAMP COMMUNITY TEACHES LESSONS IN GIVING AND RECEIVING

Posted December 6, 2012 on the ACA New England Blog and reprinted with permission.

Now that the December holidays are upon us, thoughts turn to family and friends and our collective focus shifts to giving. December provides so many lessons in giving and receiving for children (and for the rest of us). And, there are several genuine opportunities for expressing gratitude. Summer might feel far, far off for some in all the current scurrying about to welcome winter. Not so in the summer camp world! Summer is always with us here at ACA New England. We're inspired by lessons in giving and receiving that come from belonging to a summer camp community, and reminded that those lessons come in summertime and year-round too.

There was a terrible fire on Sunday at Brown Ledge Camp (ACA Accredited) in Vermont. The good news is there were no injuries and the camp and its community of campers, staff, alumnae and families will all recover. The sad news is the fire was started by two boys, aged 14 and 15, playing with matches, fireworks and road flares on a dry, Sunday afternoon as winds at a nearby weather station blew at 35 mph. Heartwarming is the only description for everyone's response to this fire from the local firefighters and neighbors in Colchester and around Mallets Bay on Lake Champlain, to Kathy and Bill Neilson, the camp directors, who have epitomized resilience. Brown Ledge campers will return in summer 2013 to a camp that won't look quite the same with its replacement landscaping and a number of new cabins in what's known as the Grove.

Between now and then, campers will have many opportunities to understand, appreciate, and benefit from the interdependence of their camp in its larger context. You see, at camp, children learn how to belong—how to belong to a camp family and the smaller circles and groups within it, how to belong to the larger camp family of alumni, and how to belong to the world outside of camp. Camp life is a community life, as campers learn how to be contributing community members. In the aftermath of the Brown Ledge fire, we see a camp surrounded and supported by its community. For Brown Ledge campers, it must be reassuring to witness the swift and loving response of neighbors, friends and former campers and staff. There are two major takeaways: 1) When bad things happen, people care and respond—giving is important. 2) It's a sign of strength to accept help—receiving is important as well. It's equally reassuring to be invited to take action immediately. A work weekend June 1-2 is already in the plans. Donations are already being accepted. And a recent post on the camp's Facebook page sums it up, **“Words cannot express the joy we feel amongst such a sad time. The love, support and reconnecting is so incredible and so heartfelt. Such a bond, with all the decades of BLC merging together so that we can all create a force that no fire will destroy!”**

A camp does not exist solely on the property, but rather, camp also lives in the hearts and minds of the children who get to go and the adults who are lucky enough to teach, mentor, supervise and inspire campers. Life-long relationships often flourish between the people who share summer camp. What happened after Brown Ledge Camp's fire is a reminder to us all.

Because of camp, we're interconnected; we're part of something much larger, which is especially powerful in times of sadness and in times of joy.

When possible, we give, and when necessary, we receive.

We have each other—thanks to this force we call camp!

<http://www.acanewengland.org/families-public/smore-about-camp-a-blog-for-camp-families/lessons-in-giving-and-receiving-from-camp>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BROWN LEDGE FOUNDATION

The Board of Directors for the Brown Ledge Foundation consists of eleven members. The board meets three times a year to discuss financial, alumnae and fundraising items, as well as the success and future of camp. If you are interested in sitting on the Board of Directors, please contact Bobbi Collins Degnan (atzdegan@gmail.com). She will provide you with detailed information about a board member's responsibilities and what to provide to the nominating committee so that you can be considered as a potential board member. In an effort to give you more information about the board members, each Ledger will contain information about current members. The Board of Directors welcomes Amy Hengerer Przybylko, Tom Pastore, Robyn Sonis and Jenny Wilkinson!

Board of Directors – Membership Biographies

Name: Amy Hengerer Przybylko

Birthdate: December 17

Previous Job Title: Real Estate Sales Person

Previous Employer: Brown, Harris, Stevens - NY, NY

College Attended: New York University (1993)

Graduate School Attended: American Conservatory Theatre (2000)

BLC Years: 1982-1988

Junior Counselor Department: Theatre

BLC Accomplishments: I unlocked my life-long love of – and commitment to – the performing arts. In the BLTheatre I learned life skills: determination, perseverance, discipline and teamwork. More than anything, I cultivated extraordinary friendships.

General Community Involvement: I am currently a member of the real estate board of NY and hold my real estate sales license. In the past three years; I am active at Christ Church, at Jack and Anna's school; as a class parent, involved in outreach programs; and teaching art in the classroom.

Quote: "Brown Ledge is a wonderful and uniquely individual camp experience where life skills are developed and extraordinary friendships are cultivated. I was so fortunate to have 8 summers there and relish in my time now serving on the board. When attending alumnae camp, I watched with amazement as my two young children skipped the paths, jumped off the high tower and fell in love with BLC just like their mom!"

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**Name:** Tom Pastore

**Birthdate:** 8/12/1966

**Current Job Title:** Head of Upper School

**Current Employer:** Indian Mountain School

**Previous Job Title:** Director of Studies

**Previous Employer:** Cardigan Mountain School

**BLC Years:** Parent of current camper (Kate Pastore)

**General Community Involvement:** I actively support Indian Mountain School Community Service program and mentor for Dartmouth College freshman football players

**Quote:** "I view Brown Ledge through my daughter's experience. It has provided my daughter and so many other girls with such incredible experiences – as such Brown Ledge is truly a "diamond in the rough."

**Name:** Robyn Sonis

**Birthdate:** May 19, 1982

**Current Job Title:** Assistant Trainer

**Current Employer:** The Atlanta Hunt Club

**Previous Job Title:** Associate Attorney

**Previous Employer:** Gargas & Associates, P.C.

**College Attended:** University of Maryland (2004)

**Graduate School Attended:** Emory University School of Law (2008)

**BLC Years:** (camper) 1991-1997 (JC) 1998-1999 (Sr. Staff) 2001-2005, 2010, 2012

**Junior Counselor & Sr. Staff Department:** Riding

**BLC Accomplishments:** Receiving my Starred Intermediate and Vanguard in Horsemanship, and being Drill Captain from 1997-1999.

**Volunteer Work for BLC:** I am currently a member of the MPB Scholarship Committee.

**Quote:** "There is little I can say about Brown Ledge that hasn't been said before – we are an amazing community of shared respect and adoration for camp and for one another, and we are bound by the overwhelming impact it has had on all our lives. But within this place of belonging and shared experiences, every girl is encouraged to embrace her individuality. I think that's the true magic of Brown Ledge – you can stand apart without ever standing alone."

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Name: Jenny Wilkinson

Birthdate: 9/14/1977

Current Job Title: Equine Science Lecturer

Current Employer: University of Vermont

Previous Job Title: Associate Veterinarian

Previous Employer: Vermont Large Animal Clinic

College Attended: University of Virginia – 1999

Graduate School Attended: Cornell Vet School - 2006

BLC Years: (Sr. Staff in Horsemanship) 2008-2009

BLC Accomplishments: I survived being the Head of Riding (and loved it!).

General Community Involvement: Make a Wish Grantor since 1997

Quote: "Brown Ledge caught me by surprise and has become a connection to a place and a group of people that inspire me. I only wish that I could have spent my childhood on the shore of Lake Champlain, but my adulthood will have to do!"

ANNEX CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

By Kim McManus

The new Annex project is moving forward in 2013. Though the grove fire clean up, and rebuild, will take much of camp's attention this winter, the need for more housing for our JCs remains the same. Last summer, we converted Bill and Lori's office, and the JC room, into a temporary JC cabin so that the 21 second years could live together. The second years of 2012 accommodated the temporary fix with typical BLC good humor, and named their cabin the "Squirrel's Nest". As predicted in last winter's Ledger, our JC numbers continue to run high - as of December 28, 2012, we have 50 Junior Counselors signed up for 2013; 28 first years and 22 second years.

With architectural drawings in hand, and permits approved by the town and state, building will begin this spring. First, the existing Annex will be moved approximately 30 feet toward the Arts and Crafts building. The current Annex is housing the Theatre's props, and will continue to do so (for building code reasons, we removed all of the flammable props from the theatre - volunteers from work weekend 2012 remember that project well). Second, the new Annex will overlap with the site of the existing Annex building.



The new building's entrance will rotate a quarter turn toward the road. The improved Annex will have space for 24 JCs (without bunk beds). With bunk beds, we can accommodate 26-28 JCs depending on the size of the group.

One of the most exciting parts about this new construction is that former JCs are supporting the current JC program. The Brown Ledge Foundation has received, to date, group gifts for the Annex project from the JCs of 1982, 1985, 1992 and 2004. We hope that more JC groups decide to join together to give as a group during the 2013 Annual Campaign. Imagine how much it would mean to you as a JC this summer to know that your new cabin was built by the contributions of former JCs. The investment

is not only in the physical cabin but in the JC program. If every former JC, who wrote about her JC experience, in a high school essay, or college application essay, contributed to the Annex fund, we could fund our new building entirely by former JC support. Consider rallying your bunkies in 2013! If you attend Alumnae Camp 2013, plan on taking a JC group photo in front of the new JC cabin.

WAYS TO VIEW & SHARE BLC PHOTOS

Don't forget to check out the various ways you can view and share photos at Brown Ledge Camp. Between Facebook, Tumblr and Smugmug, so many photos from so many decades have been posted - both from before and during the 2012 summer, as well as some after December's fire.

If you are interested in sharing your photos, too, you can visit the Brown Ledge page on Tumblr and use this opportunity to post your pictures. Go to www.brownledge.tumblr.com and send them on! You can send old photos from your summers at BLC, Cabin photos or current photos of the aftermath. After opening that page, click on the 'send us your grove pictures!' link.

Once there, click on the drop down menu link next to "submit a text post" to bring up "submit a photo" - click on that

and submit your photos. It's a great way to share our memories together!

A reminder -- On our smugmug page, you will find the most recent 'galleries' of the alumnae reunions (titled by date) and separate albums for each Saturday night play, Drill Team, etc. along with an album or two of candid shots from this past summer. Go to: www.brownledge.smugmug.com. You will need a password to view the photo albums. The password for 2012 is pointhouse.

And of course, you can always "like" our official Brown Ledge Camp Facebook page (with the camp sign as our profile picture) and post some news and updates to share with the 1400+ followers!



CREATING AN ALUMNAE ACCOUNT ON WEBSITE

The Brown Ledge website allows you to create your own Alumnae Account and profile if you are a past Brown Ledger. Your account is created with your email address as your User Name and then whatever password you choose to use. Please follow these steps:

- 1) Go to www.brownledge.org
- 2) Go to the "Alumnae" drop down menu (right side, between campers and contact us.)
- 3) Scroll down to "Create/Update your alumnae profile"
- 4) On the right side of that screen you will boxes with a red star that are required to be filled out. There you will enter your email address and password, along with a few other pieces of info.



NOTE: when you create your alumnae profile please check off the "Allow other alumni to see my contact information" box (located just under the login frame) if you want your information to be visible to other alumnae. Also, please remember that if your contact information changes (for instance, if you move) after you've signed up on this alumnae database, you'll need to personally update your contact info. The Brown Ledge office will not have access to your account due to the password assignment. Your password is not viewable by the office or the web site managers.

ADDRESS UPDATES

The following people have made a change of address since the previous Ledger. If you would like contact information on any of the alums listed below, please contact Liz Bell at liz@brownledge.org or 877-252-2586.

Mindy Badger Pierce (70s)
 Johanna Benincasa (80s)
 Emiko Bennett (00s)
 Liza Berkley (80s)
 Ale Borunda (90s)
 Curt Brown (60s)
 Elizabeth Brown Powers (30s)
 Trudy Bryan
 Molly Donelan Leitao (90s)
 Robert (BJ) Giguere (00s)
 Erin Haynes Brooks (80s)
 Johnna Hooban-Roberts (90s)
 Jane Lewis Sandelman (70s)
 Rachel Lincoln Grindrod (00s)
 Nancy Lowe Diver
 Erin Matney Brof (80s)
 Catherine Melling Turner (80s)
 Garland Middleton (00s)
 Becky Morse Eastman (90s)
 Barbara Munsch Bayler (50s)
 Kimberly Polan Levy (80s)
 Ellie Prowell (00s)
 Margie Quade Archibold
 Grace Rumford (00s)
 Alexandra Slack Hindle (90s)
 Brian Sobel (00s)
 Stephanie Southard (70s)
 Hannah Steckler (00s)
 Karen Tilbor (50s)
 Todd Wilson (80s)

ONCE LOST, BUT NOW FOUND

Welcome back to the alumnae who were "lost" but are now found!

Alexandra Ayre (80s)
 Cindy Billington Bauch (60s)
 Sandra Chalk (50s)
 Emilia Giordano (00s)
 Margot Glickman (00s)
 Esther Grisham Grimm
 Lauren Halstead (00s)
 Jocelyn Kott Bentley
 Andreina Perez (90s)
 Lenore Raff (60s)
 MacKenzie Sorrell (00s)
 Mirja Spooner Haffner (80s)
 Allison Stevens (70s)
 Ally Stevens (00s)
 Marnee Van Vlaanderen Wirth (50s)

CAMP DATES 2013
WORK WEEKEND JUNE 1 & 2
CAMP OPENS JUNE 20
SWITCHOVER JULY 17 & 18
BLC STOCK SHOW AUGUST 3
HORSE SHOW AUGUST 10
MUSICAL AUGUST 11
AQUACADE AUGUST 12
CAMP CLOSES AUGUST 14
ALUMNAE CAMP AUGUST 16-19

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

2012 Annual Campaign

By Liz Bell

We all know the song... "Brown Ledge spirit never dies, dem bones goin' to rise again!" When we lost 10 cabins and almost 70 trees to a fire on December 2, 2012, Brown Ledgers showed their undying spirit by reaching out to BLC with incredibly generous donations so that Bill, Kathy and Kim could ensure that camp will open, as planned, on June 20th and that the Grove will be back to full capacity and welcome its arms to all the campers for 2-0-1-3 at Brown Ledge Camp!

We also all know that Brown Ledgers stick together – and the 2012 campaign showed yet another example of the various ways we live by that rule. Between the efforts to raise money for the new Annex cabin, and the outpouring of love and support for the Grove, we had several alumnae bond together to give as a group. We had donations from the following groups during the campaign:

Beehive '82, Beehive '85, Beehive '92, Beehive '10, Devils Fantasy '06, 1999 JCs, 2007 JCs and the Jones, Weaver, Pastore, Perta Family Challenge. We also had a number of donations

in honor of the 2004 JCs as well as the many cabins lost in the December fire.

Thank you to each and every one of you (572 to date!) who participated in the 2012 campaign.

Mr. Mac Operational Fund: \$86,297

MPB Scholarship Fund: \$32,787

Facilities Improvement: \$204,714

- **Barn: \$78,339**
- **Annex: \$14,140**
- **Theatre Lights: \$10,989**
- **As Needed (includes all Grove gifts): \$101,246**

Grand Financial Total: \$323,798

Gifts In Kind: \$1,780

GRAND TOTAL: \$325,578

I THANK YOU FOR SIXTEEN AMAZING YEARS

Although most of you are already aware of this fact, I want to share it with those of you who have not yet heard the news. After much thought I have decided to step down from my position as Director of Development in early March, 2013. After 16 years of planting, growing and caring for the Brown Ledge Foundation it is time for me to move on and try something new for the next chapter in my life. At this time, I am not sure what that will be, but I do know that I will always love BLC and remain an active and accessible Brown Ledge alum! It has made me who I am today in the most important and meaningful ways.

Not a day has gone by where I do not acknowledge how fortunate I am to have the joy of working with an incredible group of people, the freedom it provides and the excitement of watching things shift, change and grow. And to work with the JCs - who I then have the pleasure of watching mature into adults and mothers - is truly amazing. I have built friendships with alums of all ages and from all decades at BLC. I have witnessed enthusiasm as Brown Ledgers become involved with committees, step onto the board, or just reach out to reconnect with their memories of summers at camp. It has been a journey that I will cherish forever.

How can I express my thanks to Bill & Kathy for being the most supportive people to have by my side? They allowed me to struggle through my recovery from a traumatic brain injury in 1998 without ever showing any frustration at my lack of clarity, loss of energy or inability to do what it was I was hired to do just one year before. My appreciation cannot be written into words. And then I got to welcome Kim McManus into the mix when she left the legal world to wrap her arms around BLC! Can I possibly have a more amazing work environment? Doubtful!

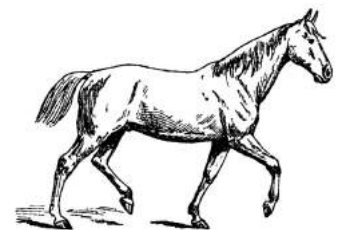
Each Brown Ledger has given me a reason to smile. The enthusiasm and energy a Brown Ledger exudes does not go unnoticed, and I am certain that it will deepen as BLC's growth continues.

I have no doubt that the campaigns will continue to flourish under watchful eyes as The Brown Ledge Foundation provides the support and funds needed to keep BLC exactly where it is supposed to be for decades to come! And that the strength, love, commitment and positive energy from the thousands of alums will continue and have an everlasting impact on the success that BLC has always achieved.

With the utmost sincerity, thanks and appreciation -

Liz Bell

Director of Development





**THE
BROWN LEDGE
CAMP
MISSION
STATEMENT**

Brown Ledge is a non-profit camp that exists to develop community, self-discipline, responsibility and achievement in girls and young women, through self-directed participation in varied activities in a high quality summer program.

BROWN LEDGE CAMP

DIRECTORS

Bill & Kathy Neilsen
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Kim McManus

Summer Address:
Brown Ledge Camp
71 Brown Ledge Road
Colchester VT 05446

Winter Address:
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or (800) 246-1958
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DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.brownledge.org
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH BLC!

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