



# BROWN LEDGE CAMP

# ALUMNAE LEDGER

SPRING-SUMMER 2013

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

## THANK YOU, FRED

There are few Alums reading this Ledger who did not know Fred Fishel in some way. Fifty plus years of service to Brown Ledge means that there are multiple generations of campers and counselors for whom "BLC" and "Fishel" are inexorably, wonderfully, intertwined. Anyone with doubts need only visit BLC alum sites on Facebook to see the pictures, share the memories and read the tributes to this iconic man who quietly influenced so many of us in ways that were both subtle and profound.

How can we possibly do him justice in these pages? It occurred to us right from the start that there was no way to capture the whole of Fred's years at camp. So instead, we are focusing on one thing: Fred's role in shaping the men of Brown Ledge. Below, five men from different BLC eras describe their relationship with Fred and the contribution he made to their lives.



### Paul Dahlquist

#### Golf 1963-65, Tennis & Fix-It in the 1980's

I have known Fred and BLC since 1963. Through 9 years of working at camp there was one constant -- Fred. I cannot imagine camp without Fred and will always feel his presence along with that of HEB and Barbara. I don't remember ever having an official "Fred talk" but I remember many raised eyebrows and hints that maybe I could be doing just a bit better. I taught golf my first 3 years, and Fred mostly let golf alone -- it was probably one of the few sports he did not play. The second 3 years I taught tennis and saw Fred a bit more frequently then, especially during the camper-counselor tournament which he expected to win every year! The third 3 years I was Mr. Fixit, and it was then that I worked most closely with Fred. He helped me learn the intricacies of all the various systems (electric, sewer, water, etc.)

Compiled by Kathy Neilsen  
that are so vital to the ongoing health of BLC. At times we wandered the perimeter of camp long after taps to be sure no uninvited guests were coming in and during these wanderings we talked about many, many things. Fred fixed many "problems" at BLC. Stephen Rouelle reminded me about the time we were having problems with a group of campers who went docilely to sleep, but set their alarms for 1 a.m. so that they could raise a ruckus. A staff meeting failed to come up with an answer, until Fred got up and said "I'll fix it," and did so by flipping the main electric switch at 10 p.m. so that their alarm clocks didn't go off. I know I will never forget Fred and I am sure the rest of the Brown Ledge family will not forget that big, wonderful, gruff, pussycat of a man as well. Aloha Fred.

### Steven Kavner

#### Trip Boat & Ski Boat Driver 1971-1974 and Captain Hook!

It's actually quite amazing how Fred and his image have stayed with me consistently for over 44 years. The times they certainly were a 'changin' in the early 70's. Twenty year old, wide eyed male counselors thought they had the answers to everything. (Well, perhaps some of us did.) And Fred rolled with those changes in his own inimitable way. Sometimes, we may have thought we were putting something over on him a time or two. In retrospect, I'm not so sure. But it's the fact that we felt we HAD to do that that stands out. Because the image of what Fred portrayed was respected, supported, and loved...and stayed with us through our entire lives. From the newcomer who grabbed a hammer to bang on the wooden docks (where you knew you were involved and necessary right from the start), to the veteran returnee who knew what Fred's little tweaks were to make the job go

## BULLETIN BOARD:

- \* Want to see photos from this summer? Go to [www.brownledge.smugmug.com](http://www.brownledge.smugmug.com). The galleries are password protected with last summer's password being *pinthouse and this summer's password is clubhouse*
- \* Want Brown Ledge Clothing? Go to [www.amerasport.com](http://www.amerasport.com) and enter Brown Ledge Camp.
- \* Contact Maria Moore with your email address if you want to be added to the monthly Brown Ledge enews to keep in touch with camp!
- \* Send all address changes to Maria at [maria@brownledge.org](mailto:maria@brownledge.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
O'FISHEL NEWS	3
NEW JC CABIN	4
MILESTONES	5
NEWS FROM YOU	6
WORK WEEKEND	8
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT	11
BLC INFO	12

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Liz Smith Strimple

Brown Ledge Camp opened its 87th season stronger than ever. Your generous donations, hard toil at work weekend, undying spirit and everlasting commitment enabled Brown Ledge to rebuild, replant and rebound. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, *THANK YOU* and keep up the good work! We still have much to accomplish. Your continued support is vitally important to funding scholarships and improving facilities to maintain the Brown Ledge experience for present and future young women.

Board members are eagerly looking forward to meeting, greeting and thanking you in person at Alumnae Camp, August 16-19. Along with BL staff, we are planning several events and surprise activities to engage all ages and talents. Whether you'll be at Alumnae Camp or not, please consider donating an item(s) to the Silent Auction. All auction proceeds benefit the MPB Scholarship Fund.



## ALUMNAE CAMP

By Kathy Neilsen

It makes us smile to think about calendars around the country (and a few beyond our borders) that have Friday, August 16th to Monday, August 19th circled in red. Alumnae Camp is coming up! Those of us at camp this summer think of Alumnae Camp in the distant future. After all, we have switchover, final events, and at least a dozen other notations on the calendar before then. But those of you in the real world have one more flip of the calendar before August 16th is in your sights.

With Alumnae Camp 2013 we have a both a wonderful and thorny problem to solve. How do we safely accommodate the hundreds of alums who want to be part of it all? Please know we are doing our very best. We are reworking the parking and meal structure so as to expand the number of people who can attend. But it's going to be tight and we need your help! Please communicate about your weekend plans. If they change, be sure to let us know so that we can fit in as many from the waiting list as possible. And, most importantly, we need to know who is planning to drop in and when. Prior to 2011, Alumnae Camp could accommodate drop-ins without a second thought. But with the added numbers we simply cannot be so cavalier. How fortunate that we have so many alums who want to reconnect with the people and place that has meant so much to them. But the problem of safely accommodating so many people is a very real one and we thank you in advance for your help. Please contact Maria Moore at 877-252-2586 or email her at maria@brownledge.org if you have questions or information to share. Many thanks for your help and enthusiasm.

During Alumnae Camp we will celebrate the life of Fred Fishel by holding a candle launching ceremony. We are still



in the planning stages and will send out more details in an Enews when we know the exact details. There is no doubt that Alumnae Camp will be full of stories about Fred's years at BLC.

## NEW GROVE

By Lori Angstadt

It is amazing that despite the fire, campers have filled the new grove cabins with the sounds of camp that could be any other year. When you first walk up and see them, it takes a little bit of getting used to. The missing trees make things more wide



open and there is actually a beautiful view of the lake from the dining room. The construction crew was here until Wednesday afternoon putting the final touches on the cabins for opening day. When you think about all the damage that was done by the fire, it is remarkable that the 87th summer of camp has begun with a seamless transition. Campers adjusted to the new cabins which are

very bright and wood paneled inside. Their only complaint is that they are not allowed to sign their names on the walls. This change has occurred with all new construction. Campers will be allowed to sign a plaque which will be placed in the cabin. The final details of the system are being worked out.

Everyone came together and helped to make this project happen. Specifically directed Grove donations are still coming in and almost \$3,000 has been donated in this calendar year to supplement the \$62,500 donated in December of last year. 268 of you donated to the Grove rebuilding project in that month alone. The donations ranged in size from \$5 to \$5,000.

As you will read on page 8, many alums donated time and elbow grease during work weekend to get trees planted and complete jobs to get the summer started. After 32 summers at BLC, the community spirit and the dedication to camp exhibited by so many, never ceases to amaze me. I know that the future of camp is strong because of the connection that so many people have to Brown Ledge. All of the campers this season are able to experience the camp you love because of your generosity and commitment!

## O'FISHEL NEWS

By Melissa Fishel Mauer



Here we are, another Brown Ledge summer. Fishels are still in camp. I am back, once again, as the camp nurse. My son, Andrew, is bugler and all around handyman. My daughter, Megan, is a riding counselor and her husband, Keith, is Mr. Fix It. Fred and Twylla have left a legacy.



As I was orienting my two new fellow nurses and telling them all kinds of things about Brown Ledge, I realized how different my life would have been without this place. I was telling them stories of "the old days" when no one went to the nurse unless they were dying. I shared the history of camp, its evolution and the ever expanding role of the infirmary, now called the Health Center (as suggested by the American Camping Association). I can't help but still call it the Infirmary, after so many years. I explained the sisterhood of bunkies and how, one of the most fortunate things in life, is to have such lifelong friendships. I talked a bit about my parents and their long involvement with camp.

I warned the nurses that opening day would be somewhat overwhelming as campers and parents arrived. I told them that many are returning campers who know me, call me "Fish" and that I hope to remember their names since 10 months have passed since seeing them last. I told them that I have the advantage of having been here all these years and the pleasure of watching these girls grow up. I also shared that many of these campers were in some way related to alumnae, of which I most likely knew/know.

So as the campers arrived, I greeted them and shared with the new nurses that "I was that parent's counselor (in the 70s) and now she is bringing her daughter, that parent over there was a camper herself when I was a JC, that camper we just checked in, her mother was one of my bunkies and that JC's mother and 3 aunts went to camp and, oh, that camper's grandmother worked here and her mother went here as well". They were amazed at the generations that have passed through. The cycles of Brown Ledge.

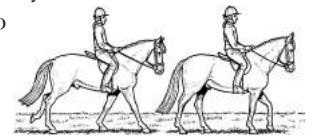
I thought, what a unique way to have grown up. The daughter of Fred and Twylla, who spent 50 summers at Brown Ledge Camp. The example they were to others. Their summertime supplemental parenting/grandparenting role to so many. The lessons they instilled in all of us. I realized that I am carrying on in their place to a certain degree, but could never replace them. As the girls come running up the Infirmary stairs yelling "Fish, guess what happened?" or "my mother said to say hello" or ask "Fish, can we talk?" because they want advice about going for their vanguard, knowing that I was once a Vanguard myself. Again, the cycles of Brown Ledge.

And what a small world we live in. **Richard Currie** shared with us at Ledger the other night that he had been traveling in Cambodia and Vietnam this year and while all the way across the world, he actually ran in to a Brown Ledger (**Ann Smith 60s**) and her daughter (also a Brown Ledger), who recognized him. (See photo on page 6.)

I got a message from one of my closest camp friends, **Alena Arent McDonough** the other day that her daughter, **Lauren** would be moving to and starting her professional life as a dentist in, of all places, my little hometown in Florida. How exciting to be able to welcome her to my home and orient her to my town. I enjoyed several visits and dinners with bunkies and camp friends this winter at home in Florida, which is always such fun and makes me realize how lucky I am to have such wonderful people in my life. That is what my parents valued the most, the people (all of you). My mother always said "it's not just the place, it's really the people".

Yes, how fortunate and privileged I was to have had Fred and Twylla as parents. Their fateful encounter with the Browns that bound them to Brown Ledge forever. And yes, how different my life would be without Brown Ledge!

Fred passed away today (June 26th) and he will be missed. I would like to think he is with Twylla. After all, what is Fred without Twylla?! What a force they were in our lives! And how I appreciate what they meant to all of us, their Brown Ledge Family.



## LETTER FROM A MPB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Since I can remember, I always heard great things about Brown Ledge. My older sister attended Brown Ledge from 13 and constantly praised this amazing camp. As soon as I was old enough I begged my parents to let me go and when I turned 11 they finally said yes. I attended two summers at camp without a care. But when my mom started talking to me about attending Brown Ledge for a third summer she said I might not be able to go because of money issues. I was devastated. I cried a week straight but then I realized crying was going to get me nowhere and I was determined to go back to camp. I refused to leave behind friends, laughs, memories and a sense of belonging. I emailed Kim and asked her if there was anything I could do. She told me about the MPB Scholarship and gave me the contact information. I received the application and immediately filled it out. I was so enthusiastic that I also wrote an essay about what camp means to me. With the help of the MPB Scholarship I have been able to make friends that I will have for a lifetime, develop skills and be a part of something amazing. To receive the scholarship is an honor and I would like to thank the people that gave it to me a million times over because Brown Ledge is just the place for me.

## NEW JC CABIN WELCOMES 18 SECOND YEARS

By Lori Angstadt

It took an extra year to build because the permits did not come through in time to complete for last summer but the second year Junior Counselors think that their new cabin was worth the wait. Construction began in April and along with the building of new cabins in the Grove, there was a frenzy of building all around camp this spring. First, the old Annex had to be moved.

If you followed the photos on Facebook, you saw that the old Annex was literally lifted into the air by a crane and turned in the opposite direction and then placed down in



front of the laundry. It currently houses all the theatre props. The new cabin houses the 18 second year JC's. They have described their new cabin as beautiful, rustic, big, roomy, perfect, spacious, practical, and amazing! They think that the layout is practical and helps keep them organized and allows for good bonding. They don't mind that it is close to the bathroom!

Over the past few years the number of Junior Counselors has grown significantly. This session, of the 182 campers 51 of them are JC's. The increase of JC's led to a housing crunch because it was difficult to fit them into the traditional Roadside, Annex and Beehive cabins. Last year in an effort to keep all 21 Second Years together, the far end of the clubhouse was turned into a cabin affectionately named the Squirrel's Nest.

The Junior Counselor program has become an important part of the camp experience. Second year Junior Counselors were asked to explain their thoughts about being a JC and how the program has helped them. **Quinn Davis (09-13, Riflery)** stated: "girls want to finish their cycle here. It's exciting to go from a camper to a JC. It has taught me about independence and individuality. I couldn't even begin to explain just how much it has helped me." **Grace Perry (10-13, Tennis)** thinks "there have been more JC's in recent years because many young girls are realizing the incredible opportunities being a JC offers. It has helped me understand leadership and being a role model for others, in addition to helping me gain confidence and grow as an individual." **Gina Marcus (08-13, Canoeing & Kayaking)** wrote: "I believe a lot of JC privileges work for this age group. Having our phones and computers enable us to stay more in contact with friends and family from home. The JC program has allowed me to take a break from being at home and I'm always a better and more mature person when I come back home. I am more focused in school and I definitely am more independent and have a different perspective on everything."

**Phoebe Addis (08-13)** thinks that JC's really "love being leaders and teachers while still having all the perks of being a camper. It has helped me to become a more confident woman and I feel like I can go anywhere and make friends." **Emmy Hamilton (08-13, Waterskiing)** wrote: "I think people have realized that the JC program is more open and significant in recent years.



It's not just a way to pass your summer, but something that can really help build understanding and leadership. Since I have become a JC,

I've definitely learned the best ways to impart skills to others. Teaching is such a huge part of it, and I've gotten much better from one year to the next." **Annie Zanger (06-13, Theatre, Second Generation-Joan and Emily Butcher)** believes that "groups of campers have been really good friends and they want to be together as JC's. Being a JC has taught me to be a better leader, a better mentor and I have learned a lot about myself." **Sarah Flanagan (09-13, Sailing, Second Generation-Caryn Daus)** stated "I have learned more about myself during my time as a JC than any other time in my life. I have a greater ability to think on my own with confidence and I feel comfortable working with the campers." **Maddie Mandeville (Waterskiing JC who has spent 14 summers at camp, Second Generation-Sally deOliva Mandeville, Amy deOliva, Meg Freer and Pati Juskevich)** thinks that "the campers see how much fun it is watching the JC's and want to do it, too. I think that people want to be a part of camp as



much as they can. Being a JC has helped me try new things and step out of my comfort zone. It's helped me grow as a person."

During precamp there was a ribbon

cutting ceremony and former JC's who are now counselors were on hand for the festivities. The success of the JC program has been instrumental in ensuring continuity in the pattern of Brown Ledge.



## MILESTONES

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

**Kim McManus** and Mike Shapiro welcomed their son, James Finnegan on March 3. "Finn" has adapted well to Brown Ledge and seems to enjoy sitting at Table 14 with Richard and Kim. He is very attentive and really watches the campers in the dining room. See page 9 for a recent photo.

**Crystal Irwin Taylor (90s)** and her husband Doug are "So excited to announce the arrival of Austin David Taylor at 9:01pm on 6/13/2013. 7lbs 8oz and 21 1/4 inches long. We couldn't be happier, it was a long haul to get him here. Thanks to everyone for all the love and support you've shown us."

Congratulations to **Taylor Strimple Keenan (97-01)** and husband, Ryan, on the birth of their son, Trice Keenan, on March 9, 2013. We also congratulate **Liz Smith Strimple (63-68)** on becoming a grandmother, **Ann Smith Kaufher (63-69)** on being Trice's great-aunt, and Hilary Strimple (**00-07, 09-12**) on welcoming her nephew into the family!



Congratulations to **Amandine Poncet de Nantes (91-96)** and husband, Olivier, on the birth of their daughter (and future BLer), Philippine, on March 16, 2013.

### Wedding bells are in the air!

**Jill Schropp (57-62)** sent us great news: "WE ARE GETTING MARRIED! Yes, it's finally true: DJ Wilson and I will be celebrating our marriage August 31 on Whidbey Island just north of Seattle. It promises to be a grand affair as we have taken over the Captain Whidbey Inn (think Brown Ledge by the sea). The reception and dinner-dance will be at the inn by the water under the stars after our wedding in the woods at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Whidbey Island.

Some of you may know that Washington State last fall joined the ranks of the spiritually evolved so we two may now legally wed after a 20-year engagement. It is a dream come true for us...here I am at the age of 68 planning my first--and only--wedding! Tell me about Brown Ledge Spirit never dying!

There will be a few bunkies on hand in addition to many other friends and family members. Sadly, we will miss Toni's

memorial and Alumnae Camp this year, but know that we will be there in grateful spirit to you all that have been part of our miraculous journey.

### Our condolences go out to family and friends of the following Brown Ledgers.

**Lisa Bennett Morse** sent this to be printed in the Ledger: **Terry Tindall Laurendine (53-57, 60-61)** asked me to let you know about her husband, Bill. He has had Alzheimer's for quite a while and has been in a special unit at a nursing home for a few years. He died on June 4th. Terry has been to a few Alumnae Camps and loves Brown Ledge.

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of **Curt Brown (60s)** on March 18, 2013. Curt was a sailing counselor from 1966-69 who recently reconnected with camp.

recently reconnected with camp and was **Eli Richbourg (90s)** died unexpectedly of a brain aneurism in Paris on March 20, 2013. He was a tennis counselor while at camp. He had a successful career as a writer and producer and had collaborated on many projects with Joel Schumacher. He is survived by his wife, Gaelle and their two year old son, Paul. He was 42. You can read his complete obituary at <http://www.deadline.com/2013/03/r-i-p-eli-richbourg/>



As you have read in this ledger, **Fred Fishel** died on June 26, 2013. He was 81 years old. **Twylla** died in July of 2010. They spent 50 summers together working at camp. They are survived by their daughter, **Melissa** and her husband Chris and their children **Megan** and **Andrew**; their son **Chip** and his wife Peggy, granddaughters, **Heather** and **Amanda** and Heather's daughter, Chloe; and their son, **Craig** and his wife, Deanna and their children Toni and Forrest. There were many heartwarming stories written about Fred on the Brown Ledge Group Facebook Page. Fred left a great impact on many of us. Whether it was a safety talk, or a chat about the weather, or a conversation on the porch, we learned if you listened to Fred, it was always a valuable lesson.



## NEWS FROM YOU

**Anna Goldstein-Black** (camper and archery JC 90-97) wrote "We are happily settling into life here in Camden, Maine after many years of living all over the Mid-Atlantic. I work for the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services on a program to enhance and expand adolescent substance abuse treatment in Maine and my husband is in real estate here in Camden. We have two future Brown Ledgers, Lola (5) and Esme (2), both of whom know the Brown Ledge Camp goodnight song by heart! I'd love to hear from any of my old BLC friends, come visit us in Camden! BLC summers were the best summers of my life."

Sent in by **Liz Smith Strimple**: "Thought I should forward this on to you for ENews and Ledger...my niece, **Siri Smith (2000-01, 03-04)** ran into Richard in Laos...at first they did not recognize each other. Siri thought Richard was a music teacher at Tenafly HS...soon they made the BL connection. Small world!"



**Prue Gay Stuhr** wrote "I was at my 50th reunion (how can that be?) on June 1, 2013 at Sweet Briar where 50 years ago I was on the Show team, Hunt Team and Head of Riding for our senior year. My time at Brown Ledge (54-60, minus 59) as a camper, JC, Assistant and Counselor in Riding no doubt helped me to participate at Sweet Briar. I arranged during our 50th reunion with the SBC Riding Department to have a photo taken with a horse that will be travelling north to Brown Ledge this summer. Here I am with Scarlet who is a lovely SBC and BLC hunter! Rock on Scarlet.. sending positive thoughts to you and for a great summer to all riders, horses and other campers and counselors and staff."



From left to right in the photo below: **Joanie Wright (Gale), Penny Hugman (Wilkie) and Barbara Dickey (Hoffman)** On June 4th the three of us, old JCs at Brown Ledge around 1958, 1959, reconnected in Montreal, Canada,



where Penny and Joanie live. We had so much fun telling stories and remembering our wonderful summers at Brown Ledge. Penny and I then drove south to Middlebury, Vermont for our 50th college reunion!

On the way we stopped off for a brief visit to Brown Ledge. It was my first visit since being a camper there so long ago. What fun we had peaking in the cabins where we had lived,

remembering the musicals on the old stage, seeing the lake front, and the gorgeous new dining room, and the new cabins! So much the same and so much changed. Here's wishing all the staff and counselors a wonderful 2013 summer season.

**Joan Berry** wrote: "I'm so excited!!! I found a note on my dashboard the other day from Diane Richardson (Dee) who only went for a couple of years back in the day. I knew having that bumper sticker on the car would pay off eventually!!!! She remembers Bill and Freckles and Fred and Twyla. And, she remembered Mr Brown, so we think it was 1957, my first year too. Her sister, Linda?, was also a camper for a couple of years. We are hoping to get together tomorrow to jog memories. I sent her to the webpage so she may have already signed on, but I will get all the particulars too. Her family sent two horses to camp also, and I didn't remember them and don't right now."

In a recent E-newsletter, Maria Moore asked alums to send her their first memories and impressions of BLC. **Lisa Bennett Morse (60s)** wrote "I was 14 when I arrived in June 1966 for one month at this new-to-me girls camp after 4 years of 2-4 weeks YMCA camps in Pennsylvania. I was so excited about the horse riding part. So I got checked in, went to my cabin, Femmes Fatale (now Soul Shack), did my riding test, crib test and said good-bye to my Mom. I then cut off the sleeves of my yellow Brown Ledge sweatshirt. Hey, I was cool, man!! But no one else did that - my bunkies thought I was not weird but snobby. I wasn't but maybe a bit overwhelmed. We were good friends after one day and I still have that shirt!!"

## PREVIEW TIME 2013

The theme was LOVE and the show was filled with songs and skits as well as the traditional Brown Ledge Babies and Moldy Dollies! **Richard Currie** heads the staff this year for his



48th summer. **Franny Shuker Haines, Kylie Mullins and Laurel Devaney** are alumnae who are also working on the Theatre staff.



## THANK YOU, FRED

➔ Continued from page 1

quickly and efficiently, we listened and did what we were told; happily, energetically, and with a great sense of accomplishment. And not out of fear or set rules but truly because we knew deep down that he loved us almost as much as he loved Brown Ledge. Why wouldn't we do anything for him? And we knew whenever something a little more serious raised its head, we could go to Fred. And it was nice to know that he trusted us, too, and would round us up when he needed something important done quickly. We were safe with Fred. He won't be missed. He's been in our hearts for a very long time and will stay that way. There was about a 20 year gap before I saw him again after leaving BLC. He made it feel like it was yesterday.

### Mark Cazer

#### Ski Boat Driver, 1983-1986

It was just past change-over in the summer of 1983. Barbara Winslow hired me 3 months earlier to be the ski boat driver via mail and one phone call. I must admit I was a bit full of myself: 20 years old and driving a waterski boat at a girls camp can go to any young man's head. As I was getting into some trouble that first year at camp, Fred came to see me in Upper Alps (after I missed breakfast). He asked one of my Bunkie's to excuse us, but I said he could stay. Fred asked me if I was a leader or a follower. My "FredTalk" lasted about 15 minutes. After our chat, I told him "I've had a change of heart." And, I did - right at the moment - and I became a leader. Fred never stopped being interested in me and my path. I sat with him for a few minutes at Alumnae Camp in 2011, and he told me some of the things he remembered about me from 30 years ago. Of all the young people he has known, over all the years at Camp, he remembered me! But then again, he was the kind of person who makes everyone think "I am his favorite!" I will miss you, Fred!

### Gregg Donoghue

#### Swimming, 1993-1998; Board of Directors 2004-2012

My first day at BLC, I wander down to the waterfront only to see the swimming dock supports ripping off the point house in high winds. I grabbed on one of the lines and monkeyed up the face of the Point House and with one hand on the rail and the line in the other I helped pull it back into place. Every time Fred introduced me to someone new this was the story he shared. For a time I grew tired of that story, but in recent years I came to enjoy hearing him say it. It's not that he was proud of me for saving the dock. No, it's because he recognized something in the 18 year old kid that I didn't know at the time, something that would help cultivate a friendship build on mutual values.

I have built great friendships with campers, staff and alumni over the years that I will cherish, however the most dear piece of the BLC experience is the camp itself. It is very easy for

male staff to get caught up in the fun and excitement of camp life. Egos can get easily inflated and priorities can be misplaced.

I've seen that the male staff that are most successful are the ones that understand their responsibility to the camp as a whole. While many people reminisce about "FredTalks" (the good and bad ones), there was much more to Fred than hard hitting common sense insight. Fred had a knack for turning fixing water pumps, construction projects, or engine rebuilds into a life lesson. In doing this though, Fred could be a real pain in the butt. There would be times I would go to him for advice and he would turn it back to me and make me figure it out. As frustrating as that was, it was not as bad as when he thought something needed to be done a specific way. Though both situations could be infuriating at times, they both helped me understand Fred. Fred saw his responsibility was to the camp as a whole. His actions were motivated by the desire to help cultivate the future of BLC as well as maintain the integrity of what it represented. His nurturing of common sense and steadfast example of doing what is right for the greater good resonates through my life every day.

I like to think when Fred saw that kid climbing up the flimsy railing of the Point House to do what needed to get done in spite of the risk, he saw a little piece of himself.

### Andrew Mauer

#### Bugler 2010-2013

I first came to Brown Ledge when I was one year old in 1996 with my mother, Melissa Fishel, who is the camp nurse. My clearest memories of my grandfather are sitting on the upper point house porch because that is where we spent most of our time together. He was always teaching me what to look for, how to notice every little thing and how to be aware of the details. It was all about weather and safety. We studied the surface of the water and especially the clouds. We looked for color and thickness in the cloud formations. Did they have dark around the edges? Were they wispy and light or were they thick and stacked one on top of another? Were the docks in the right positions or did they need to be adjusted? He wanted everything just right and he wanted me to learn to see the things that needed to be done. I didn't realize it at the time but he was teaching me to think like him. He wanted me to focus and to make sure I thought about what I was doing. He expected me to be a role model and a leader. He'd even have me say it, "Be a leader." When I was little I didn't know what I was saying but as I got older it clicked and I never forgot. What does being a leader mean? To me it means being responsible and looking out for other people. It means not letting the days just pass by, but making sure you have an impact. I have one clear memory of my grandma teaching me to swim from the



➔ Continued on page 10

## WORK WEEKEND-AN EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED By Lyda Blank

The rain had been coming down for days leading up to Work Weekend. We were not sure what state camp would be in. The construction crews were working furiously to get the new cabins ready, trucks and mud were everywhere. Maria sent an email out to the workers to “bring your mud boots and be ready.” **Mark, Bobbie and Kyle Miller** arrived early and among many other things, cleaned out the dining room and cabins. When **Edie Plimpton Fleeman, Katie, Bill** and Jenn arrived from their zillion hour drive from North Carolina, they were told to drop their stuff in Skunk. Oopsie we should have checked with Bill! The fire had burnt out the electric. Time to move to the Point! The fun begins.

Bill, Kathy and Kim have big plans for the weekend.

Will it be a monsoon? Nope, how about as hot as Africa! Saturday the work begins. I knew we Alums loved camp but I have never seen anything like Work Weekend. **Charlotte McCorkel, Anise Richey, Bill**

**Reynolds & Jenn, Kathy, Greg, Mia Roberts Snedeker and Kathy’s Dad, Ken Roberts** went to work and did some hard labor by emptying the clubhouse of sail boats, tennis benches and lots of supplies.

As soon as they were done with that, they went directly to the barn. The barn is filled with canoes, kayaks, putt putts, you name it! I think they sweat a little bit but WOW. Everyone just smiled! In the meantime **Katherine Tabailoux** raked millions of leaves and made the dining room area look beautiful. **Amy Roderer and Alex Martin** (new counselor) jumped onto the cabin roofs. I do not know how many they did but at mid afternoon I saw them on Richard’s roof, still going strong. **Kathy Roberts Snedeker** and her Dad did the Vista cabin roof. They unearthed a 3 foot tree actually growing on the roof! **Caroline Smurf Murphy** brought 2 friends, Richard Mable & Kiara Feliz. They took up painting the riding rings and painted till there was no more paint left.

One of the exciting tasks was to plant some new trees in the grove. **Kerry Stroud Green** was in charge of planting. There were over 50 trees to plant. Have you ever dug a hole in the camp “soil”? Rocks galore! It was so difficult that **Maria’s husband, R.J.**, went home and brought a back hoe! Phew! **Kerry, Samo, Jim Gears and Anne Solberg Sarnblad** planted the big trees. **Sue Mooney** and her son, John jumped in and planted some

smaller trees. When **Banana (Lynn Benoliel Jacobson) and her daughter Stephanie Lane-Kerman** arrived they went straight to work planting some trees. Banana attended



BLC in the 40’s, she is a young 80 years old. No stopping Banana! Believe me, I was working with her and she kept pushing us to plant “just one more”.

**Lisa Morse** did a beautiful job painting the shed next to the barn. **Ally English and Nikki Schachman** gave her a hand. Looks brand spankin’ new. **Catherine Alston and Rose Lovshin Smith** got the Studio together while **Allen** spent the day putting a fresh coat of paint on all of the brown furniture. **Claudia Fagan and Quinn Davis** hunkered down in 120 degree Arts & Crafts making all the new window shades. **Emily Neilsen** planted a beautiful herb garden and then joined in to help **Christy Lynn, Kathy and Sam Ostrow** pull weeds and garden around the theatre and the BLC sign. **Lucy and Lindsay Wong** pulled ferns from around the property and put them next to the new JC cabin.



While this was going on Kelcy Gears was in charge of the kitchen. **Emiko Bennett, Katie Reynolds** and friends put out a lovely lunch while cooking an amazing dinner with yummy desserts. Are you exhausted yet? I was! I took a walk around taking pictures of everyone. They had huge smiles on their faces. As I passed them they would say, “Almost done, what’s next?”

Dinner was served and Trivia night began. **Emily Neilsen** came up with fun questions that were presented in a great slide show. **Ben Neilsen** was the master of ceremonies (I was his assistant). I think Ben should do this professionally! Sunday was just as amazing with everybody working up to the second they needed to get in their car.

Work Weekend was one of the best experiences I have ever had at BLC. I was amazed at how Bill, Kathy and Kim pulled camp together after such a horrific fire in such a short time. Everyone worked to the bone. Honestly, it made my heart swell. I have always been grateful to be a part of BLC. Work weekend brought this to an entirely new level. I am proud. **Greg Snedeker** posted on Facebook after the weekend. He could not have said it better. “The true BLC *adult* experience is Work Weekend. Chores are really just activities you choose. If you want to relive the BLC experience that you had as a camper, come to Work Weekend next year. You will arrive with a sense of purpose and leave with sense of gratification. Brown Ledge Spirit Never Dies!”

I hope to see you all there next year. You will not regret it.





## SUMMER CAMP AND INTROVERTS

By Kim McManus

During Camp's off season, I, along with Bill and Kathy, am on the lookout, consciously and unconsciously, for topics to use during our pre-camp staff training. Inspiration for the all-staff meetings can come from a documentary, a news article, a book, a lecture, or a conversation on a ski lift that leads back to a book, a news article, or a documentary. This winter, I found myself not only pregnant, but on modified bed rest for portions of my pregnancy, resulting in a lot of time to read. After a few good novels, and a few really bad novels, I spent some time scrolling through the nonfiction section on my Nook, determined to learn something (something other than frightening pregnancy stats). I came upon a book titled, "*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*" by Susan Cain. Hmm, interesting. One of my first thoughts when I read the title was "If introverts think the world cannot stop talking, what does an introvert think of Brown Ledge?" Cut to me texting Kathy "I think I have a pre-camp topic".



After introductions were made at our first all-staff meeting, we dove into understanding what introversion and extroversion means, and we attempted to look at a summer camp experience from an introvert's perspective. In small groups, we took a quick quiz to see where we, individually, fell on the introvert/extrovert spectrum. We asked each other the following questions: what energizes an extrovert? What energizes an introvert? What environments, or situations, are draining for an introvert? An extrovert? Does Brown Ledge support introverts? Does our camp culture give introverts a chance to power up in a quiet setting? Do we allow for reflective thought? Do campers have a chance to work as an individual?

What can we do to respect and nurture introverts, including both campers and staff members?

Part of our discussion was based on Susan Cain's TED Talk. She opens her twenty minute talk with a personal story about being an introverted child and her first experience with summer camp (she dryly refers to summer camp as a keg party without alcohol). If you have a few minutes, google "Susan Cain, Ted Talk, Quiet", she is an engaging speaker, who makes her case for understanding introverts, and celebrating introversion in children, instead of tolerating it as if it were some unfortunate condition.

At first glance, Brown Ledge, like many summer camps, would appear to be an introverts worst nightmare – singing in the dining hall (with lots of banging on the tables), the 'get out there and meet people' message, and an atmosphere that seems to promote 'togetherness' at all times. But as our discussion progressed, we began to see that our 'freedom of choice' camping philosophy allows introverts, and extroverts, to carve out a daily environment that creates a fulfilling, and empowering summer. If an extrovert needs a crowd, she can find one. If an introvert needs to find some quiet time, she can read on the vista, take a walk, go to the chapel, or study a basic sheet in her cabin.

Not to say that it is easy to stay alone at Brown Ledge; our camp culture has a well-meaning, but very extroverted, tendency to want to connect everyone, in an effort to ensure that everyone is having 'fun', and that no camper is left out. After our pre-camp training on the topic of introverts, we hope that we allow the quiet child (or counselor) to join in on their terms, not ours. We know that all campers want social connections, but that they go about them differently – and that is okay. The singing melee in the dining hall? Not much we can do about that, but we can assure our introverts that rest hour soon follows.

## 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 2013 summer, as well as some after December's fire and the rebuilding in the grove.

If you are interested in sharing your photos, you can visit the Brown Ledge page on Tumblr and use this opportunity to post your pictures. Go to [www.brownledge.tumblr.com](http://www.brownledge.tumblr.com) and send them on! You can send old photos from your summers at BLC, Cabin photos or current photos. 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. Go to: [www.brownledge.smugmug.com](http://www.brownledge.smugmug.com). You will need a password to view the photo albums. The password for 2012 is pothouse. The password for 2013 photos is clubhouse.



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 1500+ followers! There is also a Brown Ledge Camp Page that is a closed group for alums to reconnect. There are currently 748 alums who are members of that group. It is a great place to share news and photos with camp folks.

## THANK YOU, FRED

➔ Continued from page 7

dock. Fred was yelling at me from the upper porch, "Keep going, don't stop, go further!" And he did make me want to try harder and do more. Later, when I was older he'd come to my lacrosse games and he'd watch from the sidelines. He didn't need to say anything, he'd look my way and we'd make eye contact. I would get the same message and it would have the same effect. "Don't let up, push yourself, you can do it." I always wanted to follow in his footsteps.



The things he taught me are part of me now and they feel comfortable.

## ONCE LOST, BUT NOW FOUND

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

**Carran AuWerter Gannaway (90s)**  
**Betsy Calvert Mahrtdt (40s)**  
**Barbara Dickey Hoffman (50s)**  
**Penny Hugman Wilkie (50s)**  
**Lauren Meltzer (90s)**  
**Rebecca Nyles Carson (60s)**  
**Diana Richardson (50s)**

## 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 Maria Moore at [maria@brownledge.org](mailto:maria@brownledge.org) or 877-252-2586 (877-BLC-ALUM).

**Julie Ballou (00s)**  
**Caroline Barber Greene (90s)**  
**Kenny Beckwith Nelson (60s)**  
**Jane Boldizar**  
**Emily Bregman-Gaspers (80s)**  
**Mercer Brockenbrough (80s)**  
**Sarah Lynn Brown (80s)**  
**Molly Buermann (00s)**  
**Ray Catlette (00s)**  
**Laurie Chase (70s)**  
**Leigh Cherkas (70s)**  
**Katherine Colston (80s)**  
**Molly Doherty (00s)**  
**Amanda Edson (00s)**  
**Lauren Felice (80s)**  
**Jessie Folkman (90s)**  
**Katie Frank (90s)**  
**Mark Fuller (80s)**  
**Alison Gaffney (90s)**  
**Deborah Garfield Weitzen (80s)**  
**Layla Guest (90s)**  
**Whittemore Hall (90s)**  
**Molly Hislop (90s)**  
**Nick Hongola (00s)**  
**Ann Hunt (70s)**  
**Rachel Jackson (90s)**  
**Cara Jacobstein Zimmerman (80s)**  
**Jessica Jekkel (90s)**  
**Amanda Katz (90s)**

**Alison Kopit (00s)**  
**Jeanelle Kucera-Driver (00s)**  
**Brittany Leader (90s)**  
**Katherine MacCornack (70s)**  
**Lissa McDonnell Chapin (80's)**  
**Sofie Medina (00s)**  
**Alicia Monzeglio (00s)**  
**Karine Nadeau (90s)**  
**Ian & Annabelle Rasmussen (00s)**  
**Betty Resch (80s)**  
**Julia Rumford Bethune (90s)**  
**Jean Seeler-Gifford (50s)**  
**Rachel Swett (00s)**  
**Blythe Taplin (90s)**  
**Suzi Williams (60s)**  
**Polly Witker (90s)**



Mark Miller has come to camp early for many years and has been a tremendous help in opening camp. This year one of his many pre-camp projects was to add a new sink to the barn.

**CAMP DATES 2013**  
**CAMP OPENED JUNE 20**  
**SWITCHOVER JULY 17 & 18**  
**PHONE-A-THON JULY 27 & 28**  
**BLC STOCK SHOW AUGUST 3**  
**HORSE SHOW AUGUST 10**  
**MUSICAL AUGUST 11**  
**AQUACADE AUGUST 12**  
**CAMP CLOSSES AUGUST 14**  
**ALUMNAE CAMP AUGUST 16-19**

# NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

## 2013 Annual Campaign

By Maria Moore

In my first of what I hope will be many reports as the Director of Development, I wanted to share some of my impressions and experiences since joining Brown Ledge. The very short version is that it has been great, challenging, and fun. My first several months were spent in the winter office in Burlington where I was able to read many past Ledgers and publications, look at tons of pictures, hear many stories from Bill and exchange emails and calls with many about Alumnae Camp and donations.

I had the opportunity to meet the Brown Ledge Foundation Board of Directors at their March meeting and hear many wonderful stories of Brown Ledgers from the distant and not-so-distant past. I was so appreciative of the warm welcome I received, and continue to be impressed by the wonderful energy and ideas that come out of this dedicated group. By the beginning of May I was very eager to move our office to camp to begin finally experiencing BLC for myself, and by the end of May we were here.

Then came Work Weekend and an opportunity to



Maria pictured with Lyda Blank and Stephanie Lane-Kerman during Work Weekend.

finally start meeting more real life Brown Ledgers!

It was amazing to see the more than 50 people travel here, some from quite a distance, to do just that – WORK. Cleaning, gardening, painting,



### 2013 Annual Campaign funds received to date:

Mr. Mac Operational Fund:	\$ 35,955
MPB Scholarship Fund:	\$ 5,800
<b>Facilities Improvement Fund:</b>	
As Needed -	\$ 16,523
Barn -	\$ 53,249
Grove Landscape & Rebuild -	\$ 2,930
Annex Expansion -	\$ 100
<b>GRAND TOTAL-</b>	<b>\$114,557</b>

roof clearing, tree planting, mowing, raking, sweeping – so much got done. My husband, R.J., was able to join the tree planting crew while our 3-year-old daughter, Avery, promptly fell in love with camp and ran around nonstop trying to see everything and talk to everyone. (She is pictured here watering the new trees with Annie Solberg Sarnblad.) I especially enjoyed being able to share my first at camp experience with my family, and again, felt welcomed into the



Brown Ledge world.

With the pre-camp frenzy of staff arriving, construction completion, and tending to the details of being ready for opening day all around me, I settled in and mailed out an appeal for the 2013 Annual Campaign. Contributions are coming in and we are tremendously grateful to everyone who can help us reach our goals for the year! (Please see campaign update to the left below.)

After opening day, which looked to me like the running of a very well-oiled machine, we went to Preview Time (fantastic! Avery was enthralled) and I am now enjoying lunch every day at Table 13. I'm working at learning the songs and learning about day-to-day Brown Ledge life from my patient table bunkies.



I feel so fortunate to be here. I feel an undercurrent of support from Bill, Kathy, Kim and the other members of the staff who have been here for years or decades to witness the ebb and flow of Brown Ledge over time. I hope to evolve as a resource for you - alumnae, parents, and friends - to help keep your connection to Brown Ledge alive, and to help keep this beloved camp going strong for generations to come. Although I am just months into my time here, I already feel as though I started more than a job when I joined the Brown Ledge staff. I look forward to meeting many of you at Alumnae Camp!

### WETHOUGHTYOUWOULD LIKE TO KNOW...

Current camper, Samantha Shinn was so affected by the fire that she convinced her mother to drive up from Rutland, Vermont to join us in the weeding, painting, moving and cleaning of Work Weekend! Kudos to Sam and her mother, Peggy!



**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**

### **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Maria Moore**

Email: [maria@brownledge.org](mailto:maria@brownledge.org)

Call (877) BLC-ALUM

Please send all address changes to Maria.

### **ALUMNAE LEDGER NEWS**

**Lori Angstadt, Editor**

9334 Buckhorn Road

Fogelsville PA 18051

Phone (484) 504-1044

Email: [LoriBLC10s@aol.com](mailto:LoriBLC10s@aol.com)

### Summer Address:

Brown Ledge Camp  
71 Brown Ledge Road  
Colchester VT 05446

### Winter Address:

25 Wilson Street  
Burlington VT 05401

Phone: (802) 862-2442

or (800) 246-1958

Fax: (802) 658-1614

Email: [blc@brownledge.org](mailto:blc@brownledge.org)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

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

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH BLC!**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BROWN LEDGE FOUNDATION**

Liz Smith Strimple – President

Sarah Maggs Riley – Vice President

Abbey Dodd – Secretary

Bill Neilsen – Treasurer

Kedron Gierman Fix

Amy Hengerer Przybylko

Tom Pastore

Josh Podvin

Robyn Sonis

Nancy Weaver Jones

Jenny Wilkinson