

STAFF 2008

Nelson Bagnardi	District Executive
Matt Garcia	Camp Director
Chessa Ormond	Exec. Assistant to the District Exec.
Kathi Seymour	Retreat Center Director
Tom McEnany	Facility Engineer
Betsy Alfaro	Foodservice Director
Carl "Rocky" Wargo	Program Director
Kelly McCarley	Equestrian Director
Denise Traynor	ERC Sales Representative
Gloria Brown	Registrar
Gail Rivera	Retreat Center Assistant
Tim "Hobbit" Saxton	Program Coordinator
Debbie Beckford	Foodservice
Dan Randall	Asst. Maintenance Supervisor
Toby Chilcoat	Maintenance
James McCune	Maintenance
Trudi McEnany	Maintenance

BOARD 2008

<i>James Mead - Chair</i>		
<i>Donna Manzi - Vice Chair</i>		
<i>Valerie McLaughlin - Treasurer</i>		
<i>Brian Madden- Secretary</i>		
<i>Past Board Chair - Julie St. Marie</i>		
Sue Bartley	Christina Eichenmuller	Marcie Frank
Valerie Hall	Robin Hatfield	Matt McKenzie
Linda Morris	Audrey Reichardt	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20 and May 4	Open House, 2-4 pm
May 2-4	Women's Wellness Weekend
May 23-26	Memorial Day Family Camp
June 2	3rd Annual Golf Tournament
June 15 - August 15	YMCA Camp Letts Resident Camp
August 29-September 1	Labor Day Family Camp

For event information, please contact the camp office at 410-919-1410

WISH LIST

The following list contains examples of items we need at Camp Letts. If you would like to donate or have a question about an item you are interested in donating, please call the office at 410-919-1410. Thanks!

Tack and Blankets	Canoes/Paddles	Tools/Sheds	Office Supplies
Life jackets	DVD Players	Arts/Crafts Supplies	Kayaks/Boats
Paint	Washers/Dryers	Musical Instruments	Sports Equipment

YMCA CAMP LETTS
P.O. Box 208
4003 Camp Letts Road
Edgewater, Maryland 21037
www.campletts.org

**Spring 2008
Newsletter!**



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CAMP LETTS

Spring 2008 Newsletter

IN REMEMBRANCE OF AMBERY BUTCHER

Ambery Butcher, a retired longtime YMCA camp and conference center director, 77, of Pittsfield, Vermont, passed away August 20, 2007, following a short illness. He was born October 14, 1929, in Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Butcher was the Executive Director of YMCA Camp Letts from 1971-1984. He also served the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington as Vice President of Camping Services. Throughout his 36 years of YMCA work he also directed resident camps and consulted for the YMCA of the USA. Ambery devoted his spare time to his family and enjoyed providing wholesome experiences for children and others.

Family campers held a memorial service at The Bluff during our 2007 Labor Day Family Camp where families shared fond memories of him.

Ambery will always be a part of the legacy of Camp Letts. Our thoughts and thanks go to his family as we cherish his memory for years to come.

"Every morning at breakfast during summer camp, Ambery Butcher would end the meal with "every morning that's cool and clear and the sun is shining, we sing, Zipidee Do Dah ..." I still start my days off singing that song."

Jim Dudley, camper 1972-1977, staff 1977-1981



Mr. and Mrs. Ambery Butcher with Pierre Cooper at the Centennial Celebration October 2006



Memorial Service for Ambery Butcher at Camp Letts Family Camp September 2007

**Come join in the fun
at the next Open House!!!
April 20 and May 4 from 2-4 p.m.**

WHAT'S NEW FOR SUMMER CAMP 2008

Spring is here and the staff is gearing up for an amazing summer. Here's a peek at what's new for 2008:

- The Leaders in Training and Counselors in Training programs are back! Leaders in Training participants will experience a two week personal growth program designed to explore problem solving, communication, and self reliance. Counselors in Training will enter a four week training course designed to teach them the necessary skills to become a camp counselor and pass the gift down to the next generation of campers. Both Leadership programs will be housed in our brand new Leadership Village.
- We can't wait for our new ski boat! Camp Letts is expanding our strong waterfront tradition by adding a new ski boat to the fleet. Even more campers this summer will be able to enjoy the thrill of skiing or wakeboarding on the Bay.
- Our paintball program continues to grow! We have continued to improve and expand our course to include new obstacles, more game variations, and a brand new safety zone. It's a team challenge that's too good to pass up. Try this popular add-on and you'll see what the craze is all about.
- Arts and Crafts is busting out! Our program is literally expanding with the addition of a new deck on the Arts and Crafts building. Combine this addition with the expansion of the Jewelry and Fashion programs that began last summer and new offerings of Advanced Art and Ceramics, a whole new world of creative possibilities are now available for all ages.

Camp is growing in leaps and bounds and we can't wait to share all of the fun this summer. With new toys, programs, and activity areas, the only thing we're missing is you! Registrations are coming in faster than ever this summer so be sure to call or go online to register early so you don't miss out!



A Note from the Director, Nelson Bagnardi...

Another summer has come and gone and our 2007 campers had the time of their lives! Last year over 1100 resident campers and 600 day campers joined us to build self confidence, learn to work together, and enjoy the beauty and fun of YMCA Camp Letts.

Camp is alive and well, with improvements that are truly enhancing the camp experience for both children and adults. New programs for summer camp were extremely successful and returning retreat groups are commenting on the beautiful grounds and fantastic customer service.

With all the updates and projects in store for Camp Letts, now is the time for us to establish our Alumni Association, so we may move forward while keeping our past in mind. Since our centennial year in 2006, we have increased our alumni contacts to over 5000 past campers and friends.

More and more alumni are reconnecting, and we need your help to get the word out to friends and family. If you have not already done so, go online to register as Camp Letts alumni. Send us your camp stories so we can piece together our history and share our memories with one another. Feel free to call any time and schedule a tour so you can see all the wonderful things happening at camp.

We hope to see you all again this summer. 2008 looks to be better than ever and we can't wait to welcome you all back!

EQUESTRIAN UPDATE

Congratulations to the 2007 Camp Letts Show Teams for an excellent season! The teams boasted 12 Champions and Reserve Champions in year-end standings of MSA and SMHA show circuits. Special congratulations to Jessica Connell and Kylie McCarley for placing in the Top 10 of the Tag Along Medal Finals. Our dedicated parents came together to support the Camp Letts Teams and join in the fun throughout the season. Special thanks to Dawn Connell and Lauren Boudakian for going the extra mile and volunteering many hours.

The first Spring Break Equestrian Day Camp was a huge success. Everyone who attended had a great time and the staff at the barn are now gearing up for 10 weeks of day camp this summer and new Horsemasters programs for overnight camp.

For information on group and individual riding lessons please contact Kelly at 410-919-1423.

MEET THE STAFF

Tom McEnany, Facility Engineer, brings years of camping and construction experience to our facility. Tom and his wife, Trudi, spent the past 13 years at YMCA Camp Abnaki in Vermont beautifying and caring for the facilities. Since their arrival at Camp Letts they have already made a tremendous impact on the grounds and buildings. We are lucky to have Tom and Trudi joining the Camp Letts Family!



FACILITY UPDATE

Special thanks to the maintenance team at Camp for all their hard work and for welcoming Tom and Trudi into the family. We appreciate Dan, Jimmy, Toby, Trudi and Tom for all they do to keep Camp clean and beautiful for all our campers, staff and guests!

Camp is overflowing with new projects at various stages of completion. Our new septic system is moving along nicely and we hope to join up with the city as soon as possible. We've added a new woodworking shop which is making a great difference in all projects and will serve Camp for years to come. We are looking forward to working with a group of up to 125 volunteers from Comcast this May, they will be donating time giving a badly needed makeover to our Rustic cabins and several activity areas. The Yurts for our new Leadership Village should be arriving soon and be ready for summer.

We are pleased with the progress we are making, and the pace we are setting. All in all, it's been a busy nine months since Tom and Trudi have joined the team!

TURKEY CHASE

We are pleased to announce the results of our 8th annual Turkey Chase held Thanksgiving morning at Camp Letts. The 2007 Turkey Chase had a record 665 registered participants, 60 volunteers and many onlookers and raised a total net of \$19,673 for our Building Bridges campaign! This is a substantial increase over 2006 (508 participants and \$13,572 raised.) Thank you to all who participated, volunteered and supported the event.

The YMCA Camp Letts Turkey Chase, held on Thanksgiving morning, is our largest attended event each year. The race starts at Camp Letts and continues through the beautiful trails of the Smithsonian Preserve next door. Turkey Chase proceeds go to assist many deserving and underprivileged children through our Building Bridges Program.

The 10K race and 5K fun run/walk provide a great opportunity for families to enjoy the holiday together. Activities include pony rides, face painting, continental breakfast, and our new annual "Mascot Dash!" All registered participants will receive a long sleeved tee shirt, sponsor give-a-ways, and a chance to win one of many great door prizes. So bring the whole family down to camp this fall. It's a great time for a good cause!



The mascot race was close, but the Turkey pulled ahead and won! Thank you to the other mascots for joining in!



The 10K race starting line was packed on race day! Congratulations to Andrew Madison #498, who finished first with a time of 36:07:44. Thank you to all our racers!

Camp Letts was named the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington's Branch of the Year for 2007!
We are so proud of our Board of Directors and Staff Team for all their hard work. Kudos to All!

BRIDGES CAMPAIGN

Special thanks to the Allstate Foundation for their continued support



Allstate
FOUNDATION

Every year thousands of children from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and beyond are able to experience a summer filled with memories, friendships, and fun activities such as canoeing, high ropes, archery, swimming, and horseback riding. Due to financial difficulties, many of these children are only able to have such a rewarding and enriching experience through the generosity of donors. In 2007, over 100 families received Building Bridges scholarships to help with their Summer Camp tuition. The need for 2008 scholarships still continues to grow.

Our goal this year is \$100,000 and we can only reach it with help from our Alumni, friends and community. Thank you to those Alumni who have already contributed to our 2008 Building Bridges Campaign. It is our principal means of asking the communities we serve to help us make our services available to those who cannot pay.

We have a long way to go to meet this year's goal but together we can help build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

We need you to make a difference

I would like to donate \$_____ to support Building Bridges.

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ Other

___ Yes! I would like to volunteer time or services to the YMCA.

Name, Last _____ First _____

Email _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Employer Matching Gift: Yes/No _____

Company Name _____

Contact _____ Phone () _____

Please send pledge cards and contributions to:

YMCA Camp Letts

P.O. Box 208

Edgewater, MD 21037

Thank you for your support!

~ SAVE THE DATES ~

Come join us for our 13th Women's Wellness Weekend May 2-4, 2008.

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

Our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament will be June 2, 2008 at South River Links. Call Kathi Seymour at 410-919-1418 or email kseymour@ymcadc.org for more details