

Start Here,
Go Anywhere.



CAMP BEECH CLIFF
ECHOES 2016

2016 Annual Newsletter





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Ali Kassels



Marsha Gill

Welcome!

Camp Beech Cliff couldn't exist without the hard work of our volunteer boards. Board members give their time and resources in support of our mission. Welcome to incoming Director, Ali Kassels, and Trustee, Marsha Gill. A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing board member, Joy O'Shaughnessy.

CBC Receives Highest Possible Marks



Since 2003, CBC has been accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA), which ensures the standard of camps throughout the United States. As an ACA-accredited day camp, CBC adheres to high standards of quality, health, and safety in our operations. Every three years, ACA evaluates our performance through re-accreditation. "Re-accreditation reminds us of the important guidelines that keep staff well-screened and well-trained and keep CBC's summer and year-round programs and campus up to date with cutting-edge operations," describes Camp Director Sylvie Piquet. "It certifies that we deliver our camp mission with the best practices possible." Our ACA accreditation is a mark of distinction and a badge of quality. To learn more about ACA and the accreditation process, visit www.acacamps.org.



Our Mission: Camp Beech Cliff MDI enriches the lives of people of all ages through its summer camps, year-round outdoor education, and recreation programs inspiring personal growth, connections among people, and an appreciation of the natural world.

Camp Beech Cliff, PO Box 381, 264 Beech Hill Road, Mount Desert, ME 04660-0381, (207)244-0365



Together, We Can Go Anywhere

A Message from our President / Executive Director

In 2017 Camp Beech Cliff will celebrate it's 20th anniversary! As I reflect with gratitude on our success, and the journey it took to get here, I can't help but think of this year's staff slogan, "Start Here, Go Anywhere." Intended to define the camp experience, it also defines our organizational history.

Our property, bordering Acadia National Park and Echo Lake, has a long history of campers. Originally a private boys adventure camp owned by the Pulis family, the property sat vacant until it was used by Harbor House for an after-school program in the mid-90's. Their leadership saw the extraordinary possibilities of reviving CBC as a summer day camp. In 1997 the property was purchased and CBC became an independent nonprofit. The rest is history!

Whether we're working with a camper or planning our future, it begins with assessing strengths. It has been clear from the start that the MDI community is committed to a shared vision of providing enriching outdoor programs to all. The CBC campus is a magical place that reflects the beauty and natural resources of Acadia. At a time when it is easier than ever for us to stare at a screen (and I include myself in this), I truly believe that it is more important than ever that our programs are rooted in nature and inspire young people to connect and engage with each other and our natural world.

While exploring the outdoors, we watch our campers experience self-exploration; many discover a new skill or passion; and most strengthen social, teambuilding and leadership skills. Also, at the heart of every camp experience are connections, most especially between campers and the counselors who mentor these young minds. We've seen how emphasizing a young person's personal assets can inspire positive change in him or her.

In the last few years, we have expanded programming year-round and most recently have added a focus on teens in the Acadia Teen Camps and year-round Acadia Leadership programs. So much of our growth and success was dependent upon our greatest strength: the connection to our history and to this community. We started here 19 years ago. Since then, you have shown your steadfast commitment to our mission by sharing your strengths and resources. As we march boldly into our future, I hope you will continue on this journey with us. Together, we can go anywhere.



Totem Pole History Revealed

This fall we had a visit from Artist David Allen and his family from Appleton, Maine. David and his wife Ruth were CBC counselors in the summer of 2000. David immediately recognized the fabulous folksy totem pole on display. David said the pole was a camper project and he was involved in creating it from cedar wood and odds and ends. He remembers that McEachern & Hutchins's donated the paint! We welcome visitors year-round and encourage CBC alumni to keep in touch.



Join the CBC Staff/Alumni facebook group!

2016 Summer Camp



Establishing a Teen Camp Culture A Message from our Camp Director

This summer marked an exciting stage of growth for CBC – the summer camp and Acadia Leadership Institute worked together to launch Acadia Teen Camps. This initiative was made possible by a generous pledge from a camp family committed to providing meaningful opportunities for this age group. In the winter, we asked teens what they would enjoy doing at CBC and followed their lead. In addition to the long-standing Leaders-in-Training and Counselor-in-Training

programs, nineteen one-week themed teen camps were added to CBC's offerings.

The inaugural season received overwhelming positive feedback from the campers and their families who reflected on the benefits of challenge mixed with adventure and positive leadership. We found that Acadia Teen Camps allow campers to spend more time with their peers; to have more independence and responsibility; to participate in more off-site and overnight adventure excursions; and to have a voice in creating summer camp experiences that are meaningful to them.

One teen camper revealed to me that after completing two of the adventure teen camps, he stood taller, stronger, and more confident in his uniqueness. He told me, "I will do everything I can to come back next year. I want to be a counselor." It is one thing to hear this from a seven-year-old, as I often do, but for this 14-year-old to express his dream to be a counselor carries a lot of weight. It means our camp counselors are doing exactly what we hope – they are making camp fun while teaching all of our campers, even our teen campers, important life lessons.

I believe that our new Acadia Teen Camps provide young teens with the opportunities, experiences and tools to help them grow as positive and productive young adults. Whether they join the staff as a camp counselor or embark in new directions outside of camp, the impact is significant. Our investment in young teens serves not only them, but also our greater communities. As campers transition back to school, jobs, and social activities, they carry with them the tools gathered from camp experiences: creativity, problem solving, and teamwork. CBC teen campers – and staff – will tell you, you're never too old for camp; there are opportunities for growth at every age!

Sylvie Riquet

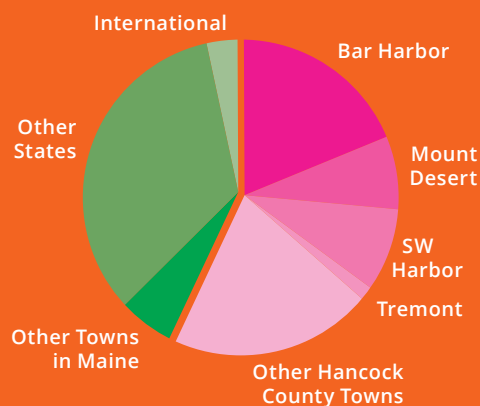
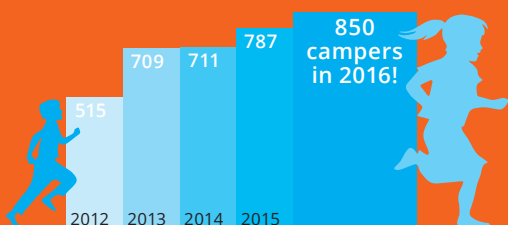


A group of people are kayaking on a calm lake. In the foreground, the red and white bow of a kayak is visible. To the right, a red kayak with two people is moving away from a rocky shore. In the distance, another red kayak with two people is on the water. The background features a rocky shoreline with evergreen trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

"Honestly, I had to drag my teen to camp on Monday but **after the first day she was asking if she could return for more weeks.** You are doing something right for teens!"

2016 Summer Camp Enrollment

Each year we challenge ourselves and our campus to accommodate a few more campers, expand offerings, and maintain the quality of our programs. This year was no exception. CBC continued to grow while maintaining a successful balance of local campers and summer residents and visitors.



2016 Campership Fund

Our CBC community generously came through once again and gave \$58,847 to the Campership Fund. This summer 106 campers from Hancock County attended Camp Beech Cliff with assistance from the Campership Fund.



Slowing the Race to Register A Message from our Camp Registrar

Inevitably, during the school year when I run into a CBC parent I hear, "it must slow down a lot after camp ends," to which I reply "certainly quieter, but unless we hit the ground running in September, we'll never be ready for the campers in June." And the first order of business is to review and tabulate all the helpful and encouraging feedback from our camp family survey so we can serve you better.

From that feedback, I acknowledge that our first-come, first-served registration process is stressful. While I can't conjure up more camper spaces, I have been investigating other registration approaches. We are currently considering changes which may allow us to better meet the needs of families, while offering the CBC experience to more campers. Look for announcements later this winter.

Have you experienced other camp registrations with less anxiety-inducing procedures that we could learn from? If so, I would love to hear from you. I look forward to receiving your questions, registrations and especially campers in 2017!

John Izenour





2016 Specialty Camps



Raft Building
Robotics
Rock Climbing
Self-Defense
Junior Maine Guide



Babysitting 101
Baking
Casting & Catching
Circus
Drumming
Dog Sledding



Geology
Junior Rangers
Lobstering
Lumber Jacks & Jills
Outdoor Art



“My camper gained confidence

this summer at CBC... loved being able to work at something and see tangible improvement every day. The counselors were very encouraging and were good role models.”



Congratulations

Quasar camper Alain Zhang was the first CBC camper to earn a Level 2 Maine Woodsman badge.



2016 Junior Maine Guide program exclusively sponsored by



Hats off to all the circus superstar performers. You kept the AWEdience in stitches.



2016 Circus Camp & Performance exclusively sponsored by



Junior Maine Guide: One Woman's Journey

As a teen, Shelia Greene stared up at Katahdin's crest from the base of Knife's Edge. She trembled and her heart raced as she looked down at the plunging slopes and the jagged rocks fading into the fog below. One clumsy step could leave her tumbling down the mountainside. Fear echoed in her head, "I can't do this". Faced with the treacherous trail ahead, her self-doubt appeared in full force — but, ultimately, she rose above to meet the challenge.

50 years later, Shelia Greene recalls this moment as if it were yesterday. Hiking Katahdin was required for her certification as a Junior Maine Guide (JMG), an outdoor education curriculum that teaches young campers skills like canoeing, backcountry navigation, and building fires and shelters. **With a map and compass in hand, Shelia learned to identify where she stood in the world, where she wanted to go, and how to get there.** JMG also encouraged her to think about the map of her life beyond Maine's forests and mountains: where did she want to go, and who did she want to be?

Through the rigorous JMG curriculum, Shelia cultivated tenacity and self-assurance, qualities she has carried with her throughout adulthood. **"Junior Maine Guide taught me that you don't give up, and you finish what you start,"** recounts Shelia. "That has stayed with me." When faced with personal challenges later in life, those qualities gave her the resilience she needed to continue moving forward. "I'm not sure that I would have made it through if I didn't have a strong sense of self, or a sense that you don't give up on yourself or others. . . those things were important to me. They still are."

As an active Camp Beech Cliff volunteer and donor, Shelia helps provide today's campers with the profound experience she had as a Junior Maine Guide. She is especially pleased that CBC offers seven weeks of JMG programs as part of its specialty camp series. She wants campers to use the skills they have learned, and the confidence they gained, to propel them forward when faced with their own challenges and be able to say, "I can do this!"



Shelia Greene, one of Maine's "Gal Guides" (top row center) and Shelia today as a valued supporter of Camp Beech Cliff.



2016 Summer Camps
Registration Opens
March 14, 6PM
campbeechcliff.org

IT'S YOUR SUMMER

New! Acadia Teen Camps



Leadership Training
Technical Tree Climbing
Rock Climbing
Wilderness Skills
Acadia Hiking
Coastal Camping



Dog Sledding
Robotics
Story Writing
Island Biking
Sailing
Counselor Training



Body Art
iPhotography
Self-Defense
Whitewater Rafting
Sea Kayaking



Youth Leadership Hancock County

NEW Program!

Starting in 2017, Youth Leadership Hancock County (YLHC) will provide up to twenty Hancock County high school juniors leadership training and job coaching throughout the spring semester. Camp Director, Sylvie Piquet, modeled YLHC after the Ellsworth Chamber's Leadership Hancock County program. YLHC has two primary criteria for selecting participants: 1) the students have untapped leadership potential; 2) the students will likely remain in the county after graduation. Facilitated by CBC's Acadia Leadership Institute instructors, the cohort will meet once a month at a different host business or organization in Hancock County. Jackson Laboratory, Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington, Ellsworth Police Department, and the Town of Bucksport Heart & Soul Project have signed on as partners to offer instruction. Each session will focus on developing the students' leadership skills through hands-on activities and growing an active peer leadership network. Students will meet with business leaders and gain awareness of the opportunities and issues that face our region, and the economic

Acadia Leadership Institute



Tools for Success

A Message from our ALI Director

This summer I had the privilege to work hand-in-hand with our Acadia Teen campers. It was a summer filled with rewarding, teachable moments and wide smiles as we traveled from adventure to adventure, taking in the wonders of downeast Maine.

I am thrilled to continue our work with teen students and their educators this fall. School buses from Blue Hill,

Hancock, Dedham, MDI & elsewhere have been bringing teens to participate in our leadership programs. One program in particular has been extremely rewarding. In 2015, MDI High School launched Island Pathways as part of the Eastern Maine Skipper's program to provide students project-based learning outside of the classroom. As part of this program, CBC's Acadia Leadership Institute was asked to lead eight teambuilding and adventure learning sessions to strengthen interpersonal relationships through a progression of cooperative, hands-on challenges. The outdoor education curriculum was so well received, Island Pathways doubled their 2016-2017 program hours at CBC. I have built a working agreement with the fifteen 9th and 10th grade students to carry them through a year of teambuilding initiatives and outdoor learning with programs including orienteering, dog sledding, and sea kayaking. CBC is grateful to the Sumner Scholarship Endowment Foundation for funding this year's Island Pathways sessions with Acadia Leadership Institute!



YLHC Participating Schools:

and social impact effective leadership can have in their communities. Thanks to a grant from Maine Community Foundation's Hancock County Fund, and transportation sponsor Darling's Auto Mall, the program is free to students.

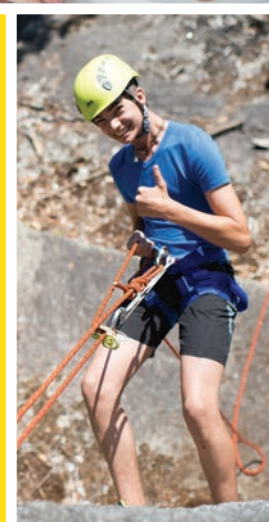
Bucksport High School
Deer Isle-Stonington High School
Ellsworth High School
George Stevens Academy
Mount Desert Island High School
Sumner Memorial High School



CBC campers gain...
**...Affinity and
Appreciation for
Nature...**



**...Confidence
and Comfort
in Expressing
Themselves...**





...Friendship
and
Teamwork...

...Exploration and
Risk Taking.



Our Gratitude

Another "Best Ever" Year

A Message from our Director of Development



This year marked my fifth summer at Camp Beech Cliff. One of my favorite traditions is watching hundreds of campers, many with tears in their eyes, cheering and waving goodbye as the buses drive away on the last day of summer camp. As you can imagine, it's bitter sweet. I love to witness the bonds that the counselors have formed with their campers and with each other. It's a moment of great pride for all who work here. Another summer season over and a job well done. I've heard, and have said myself: "This was the best staff and the best summer ever!" And every year, it's true.

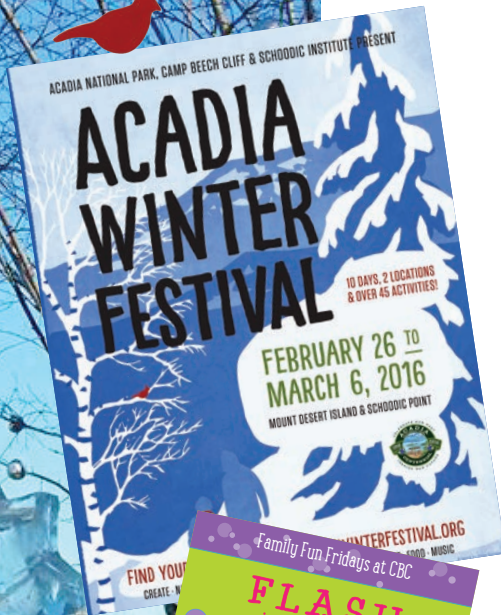
The "best ever" sentiment extends to our many year-round programs and events, and to you. I am in awe of the thousands of people whose lives have touched ours this year. It started with the ten day Acadia Winter Festival and Boot Bash in February. Although there was no snow, the enthusiasm snowballed and the momentum carried throughout the year.

From our biggest fundraising event of the year, the "Ladies Who Loonch," to the donation jar at our Family Fun Friday events, to private foundation grants, so many of you gave us the gift of your time, talent, and financial support. Daily, I am humbled by you, our extended camp family, that gives so freely of yourselves and shares our passion for outdoor education and youth development. Whether serving on a committee, sponsoring an event, attending a program, or making an annual donation – every gift is deeply appreciated. Together, we are giving kids opportunities to connect with nature, each other and their best selves. Thank you!



Local artists join Camp Beech Cliff and Friends of Acadia in welcoming Acadia National Park's new Superintendent, Kevin Schneider, with "Winter Works." The art exhibit & reception was part of the Acadia Winter Festival, an Acadia Centennial event.

Michele Marks



We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who gave between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. Your contributions help us deliver a quality summer camp experience.

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**"The CIT
program was
perfect for our
teen... feeling he had
outgrown camp but still
looking for something
in this setting where
he's energized"**

"Our kids
said the best
part of their trip
to Maine was
being at CBC."



"CBC has been absolutely the best place for my camper to be during the summer... the counselors have all had such a wonderful impact on his attitude and outlook."



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"My son is
 adamant that he
 will become a CBC
 counselor when he's
 old enough because
 he wants to be
 another kid's
 idol."

* deceased

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The 9th Annual Ladies Who Loonch: Friends, Fun, Fashion & Philanthropy

A gorgeous July afternoon at the Asticou Inn provided the setting for the 9th annual Ladies Who Loonch. The annual luncheon and fashion show benefits Camp Beech Cliff's Campership Fund, which provides needs-based summer camp scholarships for Hancock County families. The luncheon is a wonderful way for women to reconnect at the beginning of summer, enjoy a great lunch and exciting fashion show, and have fun giving local children the gift of summer camp. This year, 120 women attended the sold out event that raised a record \$32,000!

"It's a fun event run by a fabulously talented and dedicated committee of women, and is attended by a group of equally fabulous and generous Loonch Ladies and Patrons," says Marsha Gill, Committee Co-chair. The 2016 Pink Rose Award was given to Nancy Ho, owner of The Kimball Shop & Boutique, and to former Boutique Manager, Elizabeth Halpern, for their ongoing support of Ladies Who Loonch and Camp Beech Cliff. Elegant summertime fashions were provided by The Kimball Shop & Boutique, The Holmes Store and The Romantic Room. We are grateful for our sponsors and the many businesses who donated items for the popular raffle baskets and silent auction prizes.

2016 Loonch Committee:

Front row, from l-r: Patti Selig, Michele Marks, Judy Eason, Patricia Silberman and Executive Director, Debra Deal; middle row: Birgitt Adams, Shelia Greene, Liz Angelbeck, Sydney Salvatore and Paula Vogel; back row: Sally Kellogg, Ali Kassels, Kim Storey, Marsha Gill, Carroll Fernald and Lyn Cooke
Photo credit: Eager Eye Photography.

Please join us
in thanking the
2016 Ladies Who

Loonch Business Sponsors:

Bar Harbor Club, FIORE Artisan Olive Oils & Vinegars, The Knowles Agency, Legacy Properties Sotheby's International Realty and Scott's Landscaping.

Consider sponsoring the 2017 Ladies Who Loonch at the Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$2,000), Silver (\$1,000) or Bronze (\$500) level.

Contact Michele Marks
michele@campbeechcliff.org, 207.244-0365
for sponsor benefits and information.



2016 Summer Soirée An Evening of Gratitude

On a beautiful August evening, Camp Beech Cliff's donors and volunteers were celebrated by the staff, Trustees and Directors at the Summer Soirée. Amid vintage camp signs & pennants pulled from the archives, Executive Director Deb Deal expressed her gratitude to each guests' important contribution to the history of CBC and the camp experience with a celebratory toast. Camp Director Sylvie Piquet was honored for her ten years of leadership and inspiration. Three former campers who went on to become counselors spoke of the impact that camp, and Sylvie's leadership, made in their lives.



Benefits of CBC at Camp and Beyond

For some of CBC's staff, the journey toward becoming a counselor starts at an early age. Take for example, Spencer Phillips from Bucksport, Aaron Miller from Bass Harbor, and summer resident Zach Schmidt from Southwest Harbor who each came to CBC as campers at age 8. Though the boys came from different backgrounds, a strong friendship developed. The three best friends returned to CBC each summer and dreamed of becoming counselors. **"Not being a counselor didn't really seem like it was an option,"** recalls Zach. "It was the natural thing to do — to keep going to camp." By age 15, they became counselors-in-training and then at age 16 their dreams came true; they were all hired as junior counselors.

The Camp Director, Sylvie Piquet, was a challenge course counselor when the three boys first came to camp. Her earliest memories of Aaron are that he was pretty wild, and struggled to control his body and behavior. When she learned that he wanted to be a counselor, she saw this as an opportunity to work together and define the behaviors necessary to achieve his goal. "We can both look back on that period now and have the priceless perspective to see what a difference structure and support can make." Each summer when staff are working with a challenging camper, she recounts this story and says, "Look at Aaron now! Aaron is one of our strongest camp leaders and role models." The investment in children is always worth it.

Over time, Spencer, Aaron and Zach pushed each other to grow into mature leaders and have spent the past three summers as enthusiastic and adored camp staff. They bring the same philosophy to their work

Spencer Phillips, Aaron Miller, Sylvie Piquet, and Zach Schmidt (left to right). At the Summer Soirée, the three counselors spoke about their mentor Sylvie Piquet and the impact the camp experience had on their lives.

that inspired them years ago. **"The foundation of what we do as counselors is a reflection of counselors we've had before,"** acknowledges Spencer. In reflecting upon their past experiences, Aaron agrees: "We all found a home."

Spencer, Aaron and Zach embrace the personal and professional experiences they have learned at CBC. Going forward, Spencer is devoting the next year to music; Aaron is attending the University of Maine; and Zach showed up for his first day at John Hopkins wearing his CBC staff shirt. They all express gratitude for the skills they have gained during their time as campers and counselors. Their experiences prove that the benefits of CBC are not limited to summer fun. For so many young people, Camp Beech Cliff enriches their lives — both at camp and beyond.





Camp Beech Cliff
PO Box 381, 264 Beech Hill Road
Mount Desert, ME 04660-0381

Calendar

| Ongoing Community Programs | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Pickle ball | Most Mondays/ Wed/Fridays | 10 am-12 pm |
| Rock Stars (Adult climbing, ages 15+) | Mondays | 5:30-8 pm |
| Wall Nuts (Family friendly climbing, all ages) | First Fridays of the month | 5:30-8 pm |
| Upcoming Dates | | |
| Thanksgiving Holiday Vacation Camp (Grades K-6, registration required) | November 21-22 | 9 am-4 pm |
| December Holiday Vacation Camp (Grades K-6, registration required) | December 28-30 | 9 am-4 pm |
| Staff & Alumni Reunion | January 7, 2017 | 4 pm-6 pm |
| February Winter Vacation Camp (Grades K-6, registration required) | February 20-24 | 9 am-4 pm |
| Summer Camp Registration Opens | March TBA | |
| April Spring Vacation Camp (Grades K-6, registration required) | April 17-21 | 9 am-4 pm |
| First Day of Summer Camp! | June 19 | |
| 10th annual Ladies Who Loonch | July TBA | |
| Summer Soirée Donor Appreciation | August TBA | |



Connect with CBC at
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BOSTON

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CBC is Coming to
You!

NYC

Join us this
winter as we

gather in Boston,
DC, & NYC. Hear news and
developments about the
upcoming camp season. For
dates & locations, or to host
a visit in your town,
give us a call!

