

First let me say how incredibly beautiful camp is right now. The leaves are rustic red, sunshine yellow, and a shade of orange that would make any pumpkin blush. The buildings are spiffy in their new coats of paint and the sky is that pale blue that warns of cold nights and crisp days.

And speaking of Crisp days...I'm on day 251 of being totally in love with Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see. My introduction to camp was swiftly followed by finding the surrounding community ready and willing to jump in and help. In March and April, the staff of Bradley Good Year came for four weekends and helped out board members and staff get a new roof on the Rec. Shelter.

With summer quickly upon us, I was delighted to have so many returning staff to guide us all through our first summer together. My staff and I had great success in pulling off a summer camp with record breaking attendance, new programs and very few problems. The pool was packed, nature was D-lish, and crafts rocked the house. Adventure was overrun and the new horse program was full to the rafters of new and experienced riders. A few of our first time triumphs were day camp, the creation of a university level internship program, creating and implementing an environmental education program (more on that from our educator Mollyann Hesser), and military kids camp.

Screech, Hero and Socks stayed for awhile after summer, and Farmer returned to help with fall programming of school, church, civic and corporate groups. Thanks guys, you made the transition marvelous.

Thanks also to Pinto and Tan's family for their very generous donation to the capitol campaign in memory of the girl's dad (Bob?). They helped bring us to our fundraising goal for another new cabin. YAA-HOO!! (But please don't stop donating. We still need new mattresses, replacement windows, and lots of chicken feed☺)

Community support didn't stop with summer. The local Rotary group got together and sponsored an outside refurbishing of Tasher Hall. Schmidt Construction, owned by a multi-generational camp family, is completing winterization of both the dining hall and staff cabins. New hires from Price Waterhouse Cooper volunteered over 240 hours to paint Graham hall, the woodlands Cabins and the woodlands Bathhouse. Kohl's volunteers painted the horse shelter, and local boyscouts and cubscouts have donated over \$3000 in materials and labors for trail maintenance, and to repaint the flagpole.

Did someone say 4-H? Oh yeah, we got 4-H. We have started the ONLY 4-H horse club in Kankakee county, as well as a special interest environmental 4-H club. We've hosted 4-H sponsored master gardeners and pasture walks as well as a wildly successful pumpkin patch series. The question of "Who Lives Here?" continues to be answered in the plains and woodlands of Camp Shaw, and three of our volunteers won 4-H ribbons at the K3 county fair with animals that they cared for here at our revived farm program. This is just a very happenin' place!

I can't sign off without a special thank you to Screech, our new webmaster. Go online to www.campshaw.org and let us know what you think. The schedule for Summer Camp 08 is there, as well as registration; and you can now PAY ONLINE. Also, summer staff get your applications in soon. We hope to have all staff hired by May 1.

So, with Rock Creek flowing peacefully outside my window, I will say so long for now. But please feel free to contact me at director@campshaw.org any time, or stop by. We'd love to see you.

PS My husband and son want to say "Thank you", as well!