

Heartbeat

ACA Heart of the South

Fall 2008

Fall Conference and Annual Meeting: Nov. 10-12, 2008

We hope that you are making plans to join us at Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi, November 10-12 for the Heart of the South's Fall Conference and Annual Meeting.

"Get Out and Go Green: People, Places and Programs"

This year's HOS conference focuses on a growing theme in our everyday life--"going green."

"Green" refers to a variety of aspects of our lives, from how we build our homes to what we have for dinner to how we get from one place to another, in order for us to be more environmentally conscious.

As camp people, we have a great opportunity to "be green." We surround ourselves with nature, as we teach others to appreciate it and take care of it so that it will be around for others to do the same.

The hope of this conference is to give us some ideas on how we can not only build our nature programs, but to also build our lives, our sites, and our other programs in ways that not only show our "interest" in nature, but also that we have a genuine interest in conservation, education, and recreation.

We hope that you are making plans now to join us at Henry S. Jacobs November 10-12.

More information can be found on the Heart of the South's website about the conference and annual meeting. You can also learn more about HSJ Camp by visiting www.jacobs.urjcamp.org. Check out their Wikipedia listing!

Come on down to Jacobs Camp!

On behalf of everyone associated with the Henry S. Jacobs Camp, I would like to tell you how excited we are to be welcoming our colleagues from camps across the South for this year's Conference!

ACA Conferences are always full of information, opportunities to network with others who are committed to camping, and the ability to be part of the decision-making that continues to make our industry vibrant. But, at Jacobs Camp, we will make sure you get a little more:

We have a great story to share! Although officially founded in 1970, the story of Jacobs Camp goes back to 1954--and it's a good one. We have been serving the Reform Jewish congregations of the Deep South for 40 years--a pretty amazing feat given how few Jews there are in this part of the country.

We have a beautiful facility to share! We are excited to show you around, and allow you to enjoy, our 350 acre facility. Of course, you'll be going to all the workshops and programs that are being planned. But, in between, we know you'll find time to sit by the lake, enjoy a stroll on one of our wooded trails, workout in our fitness center, maybe play some sports, and just relax.

We promise you a few days of Southern Hospitality that you will not forget. So, come on down and see us!

--Jonathan "J.C." Cohen, Director, URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp

Check out our Business Sponsors!

We are currently accepting applications for Business Sponsors, and have already heard from some. Make

sure you take a moment to visit with them and find out how they can be of service to you!

*Camp TV, Carrollton, TX

*Healthy Lifestyle Choices, New Orleans, LA

*H&H Purchasing Services, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

*Nantahala Outdoor Center, Bryson City, NC

*Bunk1.com, New York, NY

Some have even made donations to the Silent and Live Auctions that will be held Tuesday night. If you have an item or service you would like to donate to either auction, please contact Susannah Craig at 337-233-8437.

Workshop Opportunities

Even though this year's focus is "being green," the presenters aren't limited in their topics.

On Tuesday, there will be a block of workshops devoted to aspects of food service. Alan Heiman will help us out with Menu Planning and Budgeting and Becky Campbell will have tips for Kitchen and Food Safety. We invite cooks, directors, and anyone involved in food service to come to these programs. A one-day registration is available.

Our "green" workshops include topics such as Nature-Oriented Activities, Play in Nature, Conservation Easements, and Kathleen Trotter will tell us about "Getting Paid to be Green."

Other topics include Managing Diabetes, using CITs at Day Camp, Developing a Day Camp program, and Dutch Oven Cooking.

We are also pleased to have Susan Yoder giving us some ideas with topics and trends from the ACA Crisis Hotline and Kim Aycock presenting her workshop, "Staff Training Smorgasbord."

These aren't the only workshop topics that will be presented at this year's Fall Conference and Annual Meeting. There is much to be learned from your colleagues November 10-12 in Utica, Mississippi.

It's about Fellowship and Fun, too!

While you are at this year's conference, make sure you check out all it has to offer. There will be books from the ACA bookstore available for purchase throughout the conference. As a fundraiser event (and a way to get some really cool stuff), there will be both Silent and Live Auctions.

Following the auctions on Tuesday night, there will be a magician.

Of course, throughout the conference, you can find groups of people sharing songs, games, and ideas that they use at camp. It's a place to learn from others, catch up with old friends, and make some new ones, too.

Keynote Speakers

We welcome this year, as our keynote speakers, Felder Rushing and Sanford Tollette.

Felder Rushing is a defender of truth in gardening and is dedicated to educating both children and adults. He has written several books and is involved in the National Youth Garden Advisory Committee. Working with Master Gardeners, librarians, and schoolteachers, he has personally designed several children's gardens in his home state of Mississippi.

If you were at the 2007 Conference in Arkansas, you may remember Sanford Tollette as we visited Phifer Camp in Little Rock. Sanford has been involved in camping and experiential learning for over 30 years, and will be sharing some of his knowledge with us. He will definitely inspire us to take a look at how we can improve our programs and the world around us.

What is ACA's 20/20 Vision?

We are challenged by our own thinking.

One of the trends we see in the world today is an increasing awareness of social responsibility and moral responsibility--and how one creates benefit. Yet, we continue to talk about camp instead of talking about the tremendous contribution we make to positive child and youth development, and therefore, to the community and family.

Another trend we are witnessing is the dramatic change in the landscape of the world population. Yet, we cling to a shrinking minority market of people and camps. This kind of limited articulation of our value in the broader context of the world serves as a barrier to those who are impacted both by the global and social issues; those, in fact, that we are well positioned to serve. The time is now to create a 20/20 vision--a vision of commitment to serve 20 million by the year 2020. Today, 10 million children and youth go to camp annually. Yet, we only directly impact 3 million of those experiences. By 2020, we want no fewer than 20 million children going to camp annually with the ACA camp community directly impacting the lives of those 20 million children.

We must advocate for children, youth, and families. Yes, we are camp professionals, but even more importantly, we are advocates for quality, developmental experiences for children, youth, and families. We are responsible citizens in today's world. Today we must employ the entrepreneurial spirit of our camp ancestors, make the right kind of investments, and use our collective voice and vision to make better tomorrows.

The camp experience is a part of America's heritage and culture. Since 1861 we have impacted more than 500 million children. Today, many institutions have abandoned children and youth or have left them inside with electronic gadgets. Our society has limited the access to natural environments and reduced the time adults spend with children and youth--and offers fewer and fewer authentic human connections. Children, youth, and families need an advocate. We must not fail to describe what we do as a critical part of the continuum of care for young people in the United States. Our ability to provide a hands-on, experiential, nature-based, community experience is unique.

Learn more about 20/20

You can visit ACA Chief Executive Officer Peg Smith's blog to follow the 20/20 plan at www.acacampsblog.org.

The article is written by Peg Smith, and was re-printed from her blog. It is to serve as introduction to the 20/20 plan, and Peg offers more insight in her blog and in articles in the CAMPING magazine.

Standards Training at the Conference

Whether you are planning on being visited for the first time or the twentieth this summer, you need to attend a standards training course. The Basic Standards Course will be offered on Monday, from 1-6 p.m. The Standards Update Course will be offered on Tuesday. If you have already attended the Basic course, you may attend the Update.

Have you ever thought about being a visitor and seeing how accreditation works on the other side? We will be offering an Associate Visitor Training on Wednesday and Thursday of the Conference. Remember, the Basic Standards Course is a prerequisite for the Associate Visitor Training. Also, Visitors are required to take the Visitor Update every three years, so it will be offered on Tuesday.

All courses are free and participants in the Associate Visitor Training receive room and board during the course!

