



# News from echo hill campership fund

fall / winter 2011 volume xxiii

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD ...

As 2011 draws to a close, the Board of Echo Hill Campership Fund thanks you for your generosity in what has undoubtedly been a difficult economic year. Your willingness to support us, when every dollar means more than ever, is a testament to your belief in the positive impact Echo Hill camp has on a child living in poverty.

As our loyal readers know, EHCF has grown organically since its inception 25 years ago. Initially working with a small group of donors, the founding board members plowed a path, unsure of what would follow. Working first with one Campership kid, then a handful, they realized their dream was achievable: An organization that would sponsor children-in-need at camp, year after year.

While their immediate need was to raise funds to sponsor children, their larger goal was to create a quasi-alumni association to broadcast the mission. But branding the organization while targeting potential donors was hard and progress seemed slow.

Truth is, it would have been easy to stop and quit at any time.

As current board members, we look back on our founders with great respect. No matter the obstacle we encounter or the difficulty in achieving our current vision of growth, we know our predecessors had it harder. They never stopped just because it was difficult.

Everyone who has ever been touched by this non-profit's work owes them a debt of gratitude. We tip our hats and thank them for the spirit, vision, judgement, and ultimately, the perseverance they demonstrated.

These last three years at EHCF have not been easy. The hard facts: number of donors, down; amount of individual donations, down; and, number of applicants, way up.

Please read some of the children's letters of recommendation in the article: Pick One -- because essentially that's what we must do.

All of our applicants are worthy. Each has a wonderful and difficult story to tell. Each  
*... continued on page 3*

## ECHO HILL OUTDOOR SCHOOL - 40 YEARS OLD!

The Echo Hill Outdoor School is turning 40! It's hard to believe that the Outdoor School, offering outdoor education to students on the Echo Hill campus, started almost four decades ago. Peter Rice fondly recalled one of the earliest groups of students: "One of the first schools to attend in 1972 was a 6th grade class from inner city Philadelphia. At the time, the staff consisted of 15 Echo Hill counselors who agreed to come two weeks early. They were paid eight dollars per week plus room, board and fluff dry laundry. The real rewards, however, came when it was time for the students to go home. The tears and hugs and the fact that several children ran and hid because they wanted to stay, made it an unforgettable experience. We were all hooked."

This was the genesis of Echo Hill Outdoor School, now recognized as one of the pioneers in outdoor education. From its modest beginnings, the school has grown to serve students from over 150 schools from five-mid-Atlantic states and Washington, D.C. Last year alone, more than 5,500 students and adults learned about conservation, ecology, and history in classes held in the great outdoors; forest, farm, swamp and pond, in town and on local waterways. Over 100,000 students have attended the school since its inception.

Echo Hill Camp and Outdoor School have always maintained a close relationship, likely emanating from their common histories. At one point the two organizations shared facilities, staffs, and even boats! Who can forget the famous overnight trips on the Spirit - the classic Chesapeake Bay workboat owned and maintained by Echo Hill Outdoor School!

Now an enduring and well respected leader in the field of environmental education, Echo Hill Outdoor School will mark its 40th birthday in 2012 with appropriate celebration. We congratulate Echo Hill Outdoor School, its founders and past and current staff, for 40 years of unparalleled success. For more information, see [www.ehos.org](http://www.ehos.org)





# SLIP SLIDING AWAY ...

Our very own Echo Hill bluff went through a rough time in 2010, with the fall's historic rainfall and the heavy snows of winter. Even the Lodge was in danger. Clearly, structural damage was pending.

Enter Katie Rice Mouldsdale to the rescue! Katie began prolonged discussions with County officials to raise grant money to restore the bluff. But eight months later, when the County still hadn't acted, Katie took matters into her own hands. She teamed up with Holly Harris McCoy, Speakman's Nursery and Lindstrom Excavators to develop and implement a plan - completed this September. As the pictures show, they did a magnificent job! Generations to come can still look forward to campfires on the bluff.

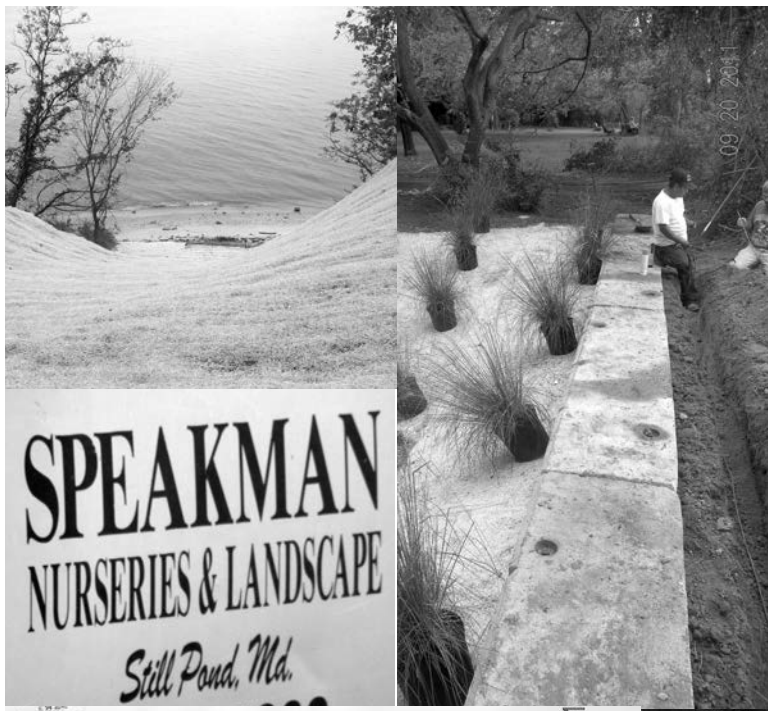
But wait ... there's more! As with every storm there's a silver lining. The Outdoor School now has a wonderful rain garden to use as a teaching tool. But don't take our word for it. COME SEE IT AT THE REUNION!



**BEFORE**



**RESTORATION**



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would benefit from Echo Hill's supportive community. However, 2011 donations are at their lowest level in more than five years. We can't commit to a new camper unless we can support that child throughout her/his camp-going years.

So, in an economy that continues to generate insecurity, EHCF finds itself at a fork in the road: Should we just relax until things turnaround or do we get aggressive/creative/energetic/bold/audacious/feisty?

Like our founders: We take the road less traveled by.

And that has made all the difference.

To those of you who donated last year, thank you for making a difference in a child's life. Your support lights our path. To those who have not donated, join us. We need you. Some of you donate occasionally, many not at all. We need each of you. Every year. And we hope your donation level will increase over time. Together we can turn the less traveled road into a well-worn path, providing the support and direction a child needs to reach heights never considered possible.

## PICK ONE ...

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation for <Ms. Applicant> to be a member of your summer camp for 2011. She has been an outstanding student of mine since 2004, in Washington DC.

She is one of the most special, unique, and gifted children I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Her attitude is what sets her apart from other children in that she's consistently cheerful, helpful, innovative, funny, respectful, and a real hard-working team-player. I believe growing up in a family with six other siblings (she is the last of seven, her mother chose to homeschool her children while taking care of her quadriplegic brother who lives in the home) has taught her to play well with others, remain upbeat, and get attention for her incredible natural talent. She recently taught herself how to play guitar.

I give <Ms. Applicant> my highest recommendation to be a part of your camp this year.

Or

I have had the privilege of knowing <Ms. Applicant> for several years. She and my daughter are close friends. Since they have the flexibility of a homeschool schedule they spend large amounts of time together. Whenever <Ms. Applicant> is at our house she's enthusiastic, energetic and always ready for the next adventure. She wears a constant smile. Her friendliness extends to the other children in the house whom she includes in her activities. However, her bubbly spirit is not just reserved for children. She readily joins in conversation with the adults at our house. She is also willing and happy to help. I believe her ease with others and helpful attitude partly comes from living in a large loving family.

Or

I am pleased to recommend <Mr. Applicant> for admission into your program. I have had the pleasure of teaching <Mr. Applicant> for two years and find him a qualified candidate.

As an educator I have observed both academic and social

growth in <Mr. Applicant>. Socially, he participates in many different programs throughout the year, working on political campaigns and helping around his neighborhood. I have noticed that he has gained immense confidence and ability to stand in front of crowds to deliver a well-written and thought-provoking speech. I have also watched him not succeed in different clubs in school. He has had the maturity and strength to not allow the failure to be a setback. He has changed and done something better with himself and his time. Academically he is very successful in Social Studies. More than once he has pushed himself to the next level and taken initiative with his studies. He maintains excellence in my class and I know that regardless of what faces him, he will be successful, in your program and many other aspects of life.

Or

I've know <Ms. Applicant> for a little over 7 years as a member of our Church. She is an exceptional young lady. Most everyone knows of her intellectual acumen, lofty ambitions, abilities, and kindness; indeed, she is a very creative, loving, well-mannered, friendly child. However, few know of the struggle she endured a year ago, with the support of her immediate family and our church...[issue omitted]. She is progressing flawlessly and is in good spirits. Echo Hill would be a breath of fresh air for her.

I have seen her creativity in action; she sings for our church and has participated in our vacation bible schools where she drew, painted, and created artwork. She has participated in ballet, cheerleading, karate, chorus, violin, and has volunteered to help children in lower grades with reading, all while maintaining good grades. She has won talent shows, received awards, and trophies - all of which are secondary to her loving nature. She is a good role model to her younger brother and the children in our church, and is always well behaved and willing to help. I hope you will accept <Ms. Applicant> for a Campership.

Or

I am writing to ask you to consider my student <Mr. Applicant> as a candidate for a scholarship to attend Echo Hill Camp. <Mr. Applicant> came to my class three weeks ago as a transfer student. I've only known him a short time but I feel, after looking at the camp website, that he would benefit from the activities Echo Hill offers. He could play and interact with his peers. He is very athletic and energetic and would enjoy a chance to fish, swim, camp, and hike. He tries hard in school and I feel this experience would help build his self-esteem. Thank you for considering him for this opportunity.

Or

I first met <Ms. Applicant> shortly before her first summer at Echo Hill. In fact I drove her to camp with another girl from Baltimore. She was very nervous as she had never been away from her family for two weeks. Yet one of her wonderful traits is that she is interested in new experiences and learning, so she was very excited.

She had a wonderful time that year and counted the days until her next summer, last year. She was even more excited to go to the holiday sleep over in December. Last year she learned to swim and enjoyed getting to know counselors and campers from different parts of the country, and world.

<Ms. Applicant> is a bright girl who likes challenges and when given the opportunity, to learn and do new things. Echo Hill has provided her with a wealth of new experiences and the opportunity to build relationships with many different people. I hope she can continue to attend Echo Hill and maybe even be a counselor herself one day.



## Behind the scenes at ehcf ...

by Kiersten Henry for the EHCF Board

Ever wonder what the EHCF does? As the newest member of the board (almost three years now), I'm still in awe of what it takes to send our kids to camp. A lot of what we do is fundraising, but there's so much more...

Our annual cycle begins in the autumn with a fund drive. The board meets once a month to discuss strategies, the newsletter and plans for the coming year. Mid-winter, after the newsletter push for funds, we figure out how many camperships we can afford, based on your donations. First we count how many weeks our returning kids need. We ask if they want to come back (invariably, "YES!"), how many two-week campers want to extend their stays to four weeks (we all know once you spend two weeks at Echo Hill, you want to stay the whole summer), and deduct the campers "aging out." Once these weeks are funded, we see how many new two-week camperships we can afford.

Then comes the hard part, choosing who gets to go. Look at the recommendations in "Pick One." All the children are deserving. How would you choose one over another? Luckily for the board members, we don't have to. The Selection

Committee does it for us. Imagine the mystique of Echo Ring (parents, ask your camper to explain). The committee meets independently, and much like The Firebirds, shoulders the responsibility.

But the board's work isn't over yet. We contact the accepted campers and their families to ensure they can get to camp (occasionally even offering rides to those who can not make it to Echo Hill on their own) and can obtain the long list of supplies needed. Imagine not having the resources for flashlights, duct tape and bug spray. The great part, though? Once these kids get to camp, it's hard to distinguish them from traditional campers. This is our ultimate goal. Obviously, it helps that most campers immediately shed their shoes when they get there and wear the same five sets of clothes. Echo Hill is one of the few places where dirty feet and ratty boxer shorts are trendy.

The work is worth it, though. The letters we receive after camp is over are testimony. More than one mentions camp's positive male role-models. All mention the amazing time that was had, and how much the campers want to return.

With your help, it is our pleasure to send them back!

# SAVE THE DATE!

## It is REUNION time again! 2-3 June 2012 @ camp

All your favorite activities + some in conjunction with Outdoor School. Send us suggestions and we'll try to make them happen. Details to follow on our website and Facebook page closer to the date.

**We are looking for brave internet-savvy souls to help us, particularly with the EHCF website and Facebook page. If you could donate your time or know someone who could, please contact us!**

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### members of the Board:

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po Box 5923  
Bethesda md 20824-5923  
camperships@ehcf.org  
www.ehcf.org

peter Boyd  
JordanChasNoff  
patrick gorman  
mike grossman  
Nicole (alfandre) hal Briener  
Kiersten Henry

amy (marshack) mehlmann  
kyle Jossi  
donna (demarco) Sayada



# have you heard ...?

## THE WEDDING EDITION

Have you heard? 2011 was another wild year for the alumni of Echo Hill. While the taste of shepherds' pie is long gone and the duct tape on the Sunfish sails has been dry for months, Echo Hill's bells have been ringing throughout the year. Not for 1<sup>st</sup> period, Dell, or even "Counselor Check-in," 2011 has been the year of Echo Hill wedding bells!

In February **Peter** and **Libby Rice's** first and "top-two favorite" daughter **Katie Rice** married Nick Mouldsdale in a beautiful Eastern Shore winter ceremony at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. But before we get to the good stuff, let's consider how Nick was able to convince Katie Rice to become Katie Mouldsdale.

*We couldn't have described our story any better than this! The following poem was read at our Engagement Party and brought tears to our eyes. It is awesome!*

### A POEM FOR KATIE AND NICK

By: Erin, Gillian & Marcia

*A cold January about three years ago,  
A special kind of love started to grow*

*Katie and Nick came together reluctantly at the bar  
We knew that something special was less that afar*

*We all moved away awkwardly forcing them to talk  
The one thing we noticed is they stayed while we walked*

*Away, but not too far, because we watched from the side,  
Affection for each other they were unable to hide*

*Over the years their love, it blossomed and grew  
It even lasted three camp summers through!*

*Soon everyone asked where's the ring, where's the ring?  
Nick finally got down and made Katie's heart sing!*

*Any challenges that life may bring their way  
They'll have each other to make it through the day*

*We should all admire them with love and respect  
For the work of a marriage they will only perfect*

*Over time their love will continue to grow stronger  
A thing of marvel that will last even longer.*

*This love no one imagined that cold January night  
When they came together; it was love at first sight!*

*Please help us raise a glass to Katie and Nick  
Now let's get them to the altar lickety-split!*

Ok, so Nick picked up Katie at a bar. Then there was a wedding to plan... Plan they did, because the party at the Chester River Yacht and Country club was one for the ages. After DMX introduced the wedding parties which included **Petey Rice** and **Kiva Feldman**, the party roared into the night fueled by the contentment, beauty, and spirit of Echo Hill alumni including: **The Balabans, the Lucas', Cindy Jacoson, Morgan Lily Creamer,**

**Parker McCown, Hazen Arnold IV, Emily Burkholder Welsh, Peter Rice, Matty Atwater, Jordan Chasnoff, Georgie Creamer, Sean Rapelyea, Tilly Milch, Tory Stone, Cissy Fenwick, Taylor Arnold, Eddie Lucas, Annelieke Noordhoek, Marcy Brown, Kate Livie, Caleb Balaban, Megan Heffernan, Julie Rice, Zoë Abram, Daniel Fuerst, Jak Loewenstein, Chelsea Roukes, Suzi Creamer, Terry Rice, Rachel Hertz, Mike Grossman, Robert Creamer, Jim Stone, Tyler Creamer, Eliza Derick Robinson and Nika Williams.**

After the Country Club, the party moved to the Fish Whistle in downtown Chestertown where Libby Rice told stories, **Dan Fuerst** stole souvenirs, and **Jak Loewenstein** professed his love for all his fellow campers. Following the festivities, Katie and Nick flew down to Honduras for their honeymoon where they crushed huge wahoo!

As the winter led to spring and spring led to one more Wet Hot American Summer, the blow of leaving our Echo Hill friends behind was softened by looking forward to **Julie Rice's** wedding in October. How did Julie and Brent meet? Well, let's just say both Nick and Brent know where to go looking for a Rice girl...

Julie and Brent were married on October 15 in the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Chestertown and had a ridiculous bay front party on Pete's beach. The Rice house has never looked better. Brent worked for over six months to beauty the place up (he even removed all the spare bug net poles and tether balls!) and a sky light tent covered the beach so that the Eastern Shore stars could shine on the happy couple. Perhaps the highlight of the evening came at the beginning of the night when the wedding party (including **Cissy Fenwick** and **Petey Rice**) were transported to the wedding via three McKee Crafts piloted by Echo Hill Captains **Zoe Abram, Megan Heffernan, and Jordan Chasnoff.**

Attendees at Julie's wedding included many of the same campers that attended Katie's wedding with the addition of **Sam Clark** who attended as a "+1" and the subtraction of **Jak Loewenstein** (per special request of the Water St. Homeowners Association).

Congratulations to Katie Mouldsdale and Julie Blyman!

The Rice girls aren't the only ones to ring the wedding bells this year. Our own EHCF board member **Peter Boyd** tied the knot with his sweetie Christine Bohle in Sayulita Mexico on Oct 29. The Dia de los Muertos themed ceremony was poolside by the Pacific Ocean and welcomed family and friends including the **Mouldsdales, Julia King** and her date, and **Matt ConCannon**. Pete's groomsmen included **Mike Grossman, Michael Boyd, Jordan Chasnoff, and Marc Porter**. After Mike Grossman's tequila toast, Pete's dad David kicked off the party with a swan dive into the pool next to the dance floor. We wanted to report on all the fun that commenced from that point on, but everyone we spoke with either didn't remember the rest of the night or was unwilling to talk about it (although rumor has it that EHCF's very own gossip columnist was hard at work creating his own gossip to be shared at a later date).

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## **EHCf DONOR LIST** **(Dec 2010 – Nov 2011):**

Note: Gifts with a double asterisk \*\* were donated in memory of Eileen McGolrick Gorman Murphy

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Jacqueline Sornstein





## HAVE YOU HEARD?!...

... continued from page 5

Another former EHCF board member, **Hugh Beshers**, took the plunge this summer, marrying Anne McDonough at a ceremony in New York City. Echo Hill was represented by **Nicholas Kirsch, Sarah and Derek Bupp, Liam Gilbert, Glenna Macgregor, Raleigh Myers, Danny Gardner and Mike Grossman**. Last but not least, **Jamie Garfield** married James Drew in Phaledelphia on November 5. The wedding was beautiful as were the campers there to celebrate the bride and groom: **Sally Garfield, Maris (Morelli) Leo, and CC Rocque**.

Wow, what a year for Echo Hill and camp weddings!!! We can only imagine what 2012 has in store (Petey...?)

### A Blast from the Past...

#### THE GREAT TURTLE RACE *The Echo Hill Chronicle, July 7, 1989*

Last Sunday the boys in Jeff's tent found a 27 year old male box turtle named Rex. This turtle was found in back of the Dell. Rex eats lettuce and is a very fast turtle. Jeff, John, Matt, Drew, Mike, Carlos and Rex would like to challenge other turtles to a race. If anyone has a turtle notify Jeff and arrange the race with him.

By Mike Grossman



Barbara Schauber and Pauline Van Norman Rice

## PICK ONE ...

... continued from page 3

Or

This letter is to recommend <Ms. Applicant> for Echo Hill. For as long as <Ms. Applicant> has been a student of mine, I have found her to be engaging and delightful. She has adjusted well to our classroom rules and routines. She is focused during class, does her best on assignments and always completes her homework. She is outgoing and shows an avid interest in her classmates. After viewing the website, I think this camp would be a wonderful and enriching experience for her.

Or

<Ms. Applicant> has been my mentee for almost two years. She is a warm, quiet (almost shy) girl, a bit immature for her age (frankly, a good thing in this wild world!). She is the youngest of ten children, seven of which still live at home with their mother and father. This is one of the reasons I think it would be good for her to get away from the family for a while, to learn that the world will still revolve without brothers and sisters making noise and watching electronics .

Her mother is very involved in their church and insists that <Ms. Applicant> attends with her about three times a week. She needs to see how other girls dress, act, etc.

I have never had any problems with her, including the two times she came to my beach house for a week. She also visits my house several times a year for sleepovers. She is actually quite eager to learn and fun and funny a lot of the time. I think being away from her family would benefit her greatly, doing new activities, especially those not centered on electronics.

### BARB RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

If you called Echo Hill over the last couple of decades, the kind caring voice you likely reached was that of Barb Schauber. Barb became the camp receptionist in 1987 and has been taking care of campers, parents, staff members and other visitors ever since. Whether trying to track the whereabouts of Pete or helping out with an administrative issue, Barb could always be counted on. Barb retired at the end of the summer, but we are sure Echo Hill is still a big part of her life. The Echo Hill Campership Fund joins the entire Echo Hill family in congratulating Barb on her retirement and thanking her for all she has done for Echo Hill over the last 25 years.

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And return it with this coupon to:

EHCF  
PO Box 5923  
Bethesda, Maryland 20824 - 5923

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For your convenience there is a secure donation page on the website.

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**e ch o h il l C a m p e r s h i p f u N d**  
 po Box 5923  
 B e t h e s d a , m d 20824-5923

**Do we have your email address?**  
 Keep in touch with the Echo Hill  
 Community through EHCF!

**Can you help?**

Can you find a friend or three to pitch in? How about your family members? 25 bucks? Sure, we'll take it! How about donating the equivalent of a night on the town? Do you own a company? Hit us with your pre-tax dollars. Maybe the company you work for matches your donations. Join our Facebook page, post your support and ask your friends to do the same. Tweet you support to the world. Donate to EHCF in lieu of a gift. Any way you can help will be returned in karmic currency, which you can't spend, but feels oh-so-good.

**Thank you.**

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

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

