



NEWS FROM ECHO HILL CAMPERSHIP FUND

FALL / WINTER 2015

VOLUME XXVII

LETTER FROM THE BOARD ...

“Screw Disney. I’m headed to my happiest place on earth!” - October 10th Facebook post by Echo Hill Camp alum Jaqueline Viess Sornstein on her way to this year’s reunion. Over 75 people joined her for EHC’s first-ever fall gathering at camp - for beach hikes, boat rides, ropes course climbing, and barefoot running (something we did long before anyone else thought it was a good idea). There was a delicious meal, lovingly supervised by now-retired Miss Honey, and a campfire, where we sang *Peaceful Easy Feeling* and *Rocky Raccoon*, among others, and reminisced while our kids feasted on s’mores.

And, of course, we all remembered why we were there — to celebrate the effort and support our community contributes to raising funds for children who could not otherwise share treasured camp memories, savor the beach or bluff or enjoy Echo Hill as we did.

We, the Board, would like to thank all of you for your contributions throughout this year, especially alums Et Halstead and Dan Fuerst, who organized the awesome NYC to EHC bike ride described further on. It was a huge success!

We look forward to connecting with everyone throughout the year via Facebook and email, but in the meantime please enjoy the newsletter. If you love the Reunion photos but weren’t able to join us, consider coming to the next one. These events get better with each additional alum, and while we were thrilled with the turn out this year, our best ever, we hope even more of you will join us in 2018.

Yours truly,
The Echo Hill Campership Fund Board

WHAT HAPPENED TO BETTERTON?

Once upon a time, when I went to Echo Hill in the late 1960s and early 1970s, there lived an enchanting boardwalk town called Betterton - not today’s sad conglomeration of condos and rental properties, but a lively beach resort with arcades and rides and a steamer history as old as the 1800s. Those were the good old days! Pete would give us each a crisp dollar bill and we would play pinball, ride the Whip and eat cotton candy to our heart’s content! So what happened to all the fun?

The Bay Bridge. The once thriving Eastern Shore steamship route between Baltimore, Tolchester and Betterton was quickly abandoned by fickle drivers craving the Atlantic’s crashing waves. The first span, completed in 1952, rang its death knell, the second, opened in 1973, did it in. Soon both towns were nothing more than delapidated footnotes of the DelMarVa’s entertainment history. Yet, thanks to Walter Harris, Echo Hill still harbors a small piece of these turn-of-the-century playgrounds - the Whip from Tolchester.

Did you know that Betterton has a museum commemorating its turn-of-the-century hay-days? I didn’t, until Peter called Betterton’s mayor, Candy Sorge, and asked her to give me a tour of the building - a refurbished church on

... continued page 5

CAMPERSHIP UPDATE ...

This summer you funded 21 children for 50 weeks at Echo Hill. What an accomplishment - both the fundraising and the impact these camperships had, both seen and unseen, on the lucky young people they were awarded to. While most recipients spend only two weeks at Echo Hill, their care givers often tell us that the prospect of returning the following summer sustains their child throughout the year, particularly when the going gets tough.

This residual effect can not be underestimated. It is an investment that pays dividends year after year, as motivation, confidence building, acquiring new skills, or as a haven with a few additional caring adults in his or her corner. Echo Hill provides so much more than swimming lessons or s’mores. Certainly, each of this year’s 21 children has a special cherished Echo Hill memory they can revisit if times get hard during the rest of the year.

A parent recently wrote her child “continues to apply skills learned at camp in his daily life,” and is already counting the days until next summer. A mentor of another confided that her young teenage charge reports “I have a lot more confidence after going to Echo Hill. I can talk more freely now.” And the Executive Director of an organization that identifies potential campership kids said without hesitation that if she won the lottery she would send all the children in her social services organization to sleep away camp. When you look at the needs of her population, this is quite a testament. A camper wrote, “My favorite memory was looking up at the stars on the Bluff and talking for hours, laughing about the five years we’ve spent together.”

Thank you to every name on our donor list who made this impact possible.

MISS HONEY'S KITCHEN



Last year we revealed Honey's secret recipe for fried chicken. And at the reunion we all savored her culinary specialty. But Miss Honey's kitchen is a sadder place this year; she's in mourning. The love of her life sailed off to the Great Bay in the sky, leaving her with a hole in her heart and an apron drenched in tears. Her love story spanned half a century, and to hear her tell it several years ago, apparently, she was bad in the 11th grade ...

H: I was a tomboy and hung out with the boys. They all called me pretty. They all wanted me but I was one of them.

L: So how old were you when you got married?

H: 29 ... I forget. I had all three of my kids when I got married. I had my first at 21. My husband, Walter Murray, is the father of the kids. He was much older than I was, a whole lot, like 13 years. He was a waterman.

L: You told me he was a fisherman!

H: A waterman.

L: What's the difference?

H: He worked on water ... fish, crab. He was one of the first ... He was the first black person that was with the whites and played ball with them, worked on water, all that. My husband is really, really famous around here in Kent County and Rock Hall. He was strong. And I'm taking care of him now cause his back is bad. His mind is good, everything's good, he feeds himself, he just can't walk. And I'm not gonna put him in a nursing home. Because it's depressing in there and he wouldn't do nothing but go down.

Rest in peace Walter Murray. You are sorely missed.



CREATIVITY IN THE BAG!

Building new relationships, trying new activities, and learning new skills bring a certain type of joy that is the foundation of what we refer to as ‘Echo Hill Magic’, a state of mind particularly impactful on children who normally make due with too little in their lives. Echo Hill Magic helps them develop a new sense of community -- a belonging yearned for, but too often not experienced in everyday life.

Through this non-profit, we, the EHCF community, bring a place to grow and thrive to these children who would otherwise never experience Echo Hill’s brand of magic.

And we have been extraordinarily creative in how we do this. Over the years we’ve seen Team 500 (groups coming together to donate \$500), 30k in 30 days (a daily Facebook effort that surpassed its goal), reunions in towns far and wide (partying with a purpose), and the recent NYC to EHC Ride (an inspiring, physically exhausting effort to generate donations). There are also the inspiring examples of the campers, themselves. Though young, they feel the enchantment and have come up with innovative ways to share the love.

William Gorman, a camper for the past 4 years, knows the magic and decided to help spread it. Seeing reusable grocery bags as an ideal vehicle, William ordered 250 white bags online with the EHCF logo. With permission from Barnes & (David?) Noble in Bethesda, MD, he set up a table and went to work, happily surprised at the ease the bags sold.

Later in the year, tasked by his middle school to engage in creative non-profit work, he grabbed a few buddies and back to Barnes & (Zach?) Noble they went, selling more bags and upping their game by selling baked goods, as well.

In all, this 8th grader and his friends raised more than \$200 for EHCF, while experiencing the fulfillment of doing good work and helping others. And he has more bags to sell; so don’t be surprised if you see him in Bethesda pulling heartstrings and hawking wares in his personal effort to pay it forward and share the experience we all know to be Echo Hill Magic. Let’s follow William’s lead-- the EHCF board is ready to support us!



REUNION 2015



NYC TO EHC

They did it! In July, eight loyal counselors cycled 200 miles from New York City to Echo Hill Camp. Surpassing their initial fund raising goal, the team peddled its way to over \$10,000 in donations to the Campership Fund. It is a true testament that despite no longer working or attending Echo Hill, alumni find ways to stay connected and provide for future campers.

The trip was arduous, exhilarating and funny - a true Echo Hill adventure. One rider popped a tire two blocks into the trip on the curbs of Manhattan. Another did the whole thing on a mountain bike. A third, after a full day of riding, realized his padded bike shorts were on backwards. With tired legs and big

smiles, they rode into camp to the triumphant cheers of all the kids. It was truly magical. There's already talk of the next ride - and the idea of hot air balloons keeps coming up. Apparently Pete knows a guy at Aberdeen getting rid of a couple of blimps.

Most importantly, thanks to all the generous donors and riders who banded together to send kids to camp. An amazing job for an amazing cause. Thank you.



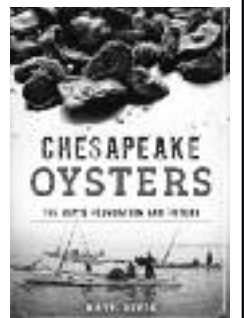
ALUMNI BOOKS



Crassostrea virginica, the eastern oyster. These humble bivalves are the living bones of the Chesapeake, the ecological and historical lifeblood of the region. When colonists first sailed these abundant shores, they described massive shoals of foot-long oysters. But the bottomless appetite of the Gilded Age and great fleets of skipjacks took their toll. Disease, environmental pressures and overconsumption decimated the population by the end of the twentieth century. While Virginia turned to bottom-leasing, passionate debate continues in Maryland among scientists and oystermen whether aquaculture or wild harvesting is the better way forward. Today, boutique oyster

farming in the Bay is sustainably meeting the culinary demand of a new generation of connoisseurs. With careful research and interviews with experts, author Kate Livie presents this dynamic story and a glimpse of what the future may hold.

The author, Echo Hill alum Kate Livie, is a professional Chesapeake educator, writer and historian. An Eastern Shore native, Livie is passionate about the Chesapeake Bay's culture, heritage and landscape. She currently serves as the director of education at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Maryland, and writes for the Chesapeake Bay Journal and beautifulswimmers.tumblr.com. She lives with her husband in Chestertown, Maryland, and to date she owns thirteen oyster knives.



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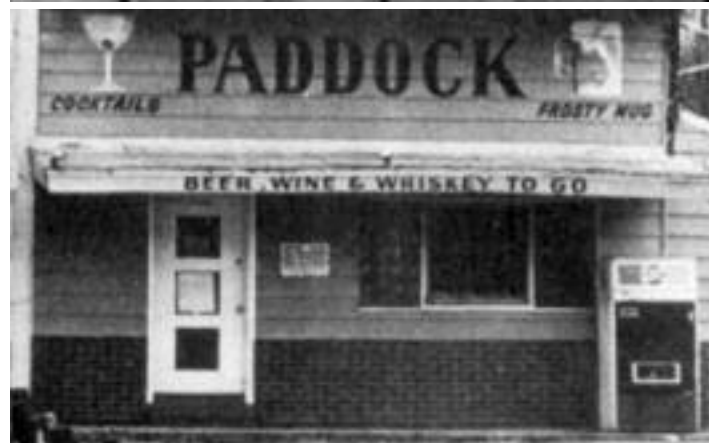
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WHAT HAPPENED TO BETTERTON ...?

Main Street. This wonderful lady also gave me permission to reprint some of their postcard collection. According to Dolly Harris, the boats would leave Baltimore early in the morning, drop the beach-goers at Tolchester and arrive at Betterton in time for lunch. Chauffeurs from the six big hotels would greet

passengers, menus in hand, to drive diners to their establishments. Of course, Pete's fondest memory of Betterton was the Paddock, camp's first beachfront watering hole, the Legion's precursor.

Betterton 1976 - before demolition



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HAVE YOU HEARD ...?

Babies!

Peter and Libby Rice must be thrilled that they now have enough grandchildren to field their own basketball team, though filling a gaga ring might take a few more years. **Katie Rice Mouldsdaile** and husband Nick welcomed baby Emilia Rose in May. **Mike Balaban** and his wife had a baby boy, Michael, on March 23, 2015. Is this newsletter full of sentences that trail off before the thought is completed? Or maybe your copy is covered in some unidentifiable, crusted food? Well, this time we actually have an excuse! Two of our Board Members have new babies at home. Future Capitol Hill residents **Peter Boyd** and his wife Christine are the proud parents to their second son, Ryan who arrived in June. And, **Kiva (Feldman) Zytnick** and her husband Dan welcomed baby Mira last December. Rounding out girls' side of 2025, **Jordan Chasnoff** and **Megan Lewis** welcomed baby Sydney this spring, and **Jennifer (Fishman) Borzumato** and husband James had a baby girl, Victoria Eve, in October.

Nuptials

Aaron (aka Nate) Pancost wed Holly Gorman in March in Baltimore. **Pat Bernhardt** officiated, and sister **Maggie Pancost** and **Preston & Christine Hart (nee Jackson)** also attended. **Andrew Hastings Black** married Tara Tashjian this fall in New England. **Michael Boyd** wed the very lovely Liza Tanner on October 3 in Chestertown. Among the many EHC alumni in attendance were: **Peter Boyd, Jordan Chasnoff, Megan Lewis,**

Mike Grossman, Katie Rice Mouldsdaile, Julie Rice Blyman, Peter and Libby Rice, Sam Clark, Hazen Arnold, Annelieke Wahlbert, Cindy Jackson, Marc Porter, Emily Porter, AND most of the dining hall benches were used during the outdoor ceremony. **Et Halstead** got engaged to Tough Mudder guru (and former co-worker of Petey Rice's) Antonia Clark on Oct 9th. **Jon Brehm** married longtime girlfriend, Courtney LeBlanc, and bought a house outside of New Orleans, LA.

Et Cetera

Eddie Lucas is still manning the ship on Bravo's Below Deck (Tuesday 9/8c) for his third season. His twitter followers are through the roof! **Kieffer Mitchell** is currently working for Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as a special adviser. While working on expanding access to charter schools may seem like a big job, it is really just a stepping stone to becoming Maryland's Commissioner of the Water Basketball Association. **Andrew Kessner** is attending Columbia business school and crushing it! **Japhet Balaban's** acting career took off when he appeared on Season 3, Episode 7 of Chicago PD! Woohoo!**Maddie O'Beirne** was on the CAA championship hockey team for the third year in a row playing for University of Delaware Field Hockey. **Donna DeMarco Sayada** will be opening Serpentine Dance Studio in downtown Bethesda early 2016. She's offering a free class to Echo Hill alumni.



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Reunion 2015

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 Keep in touch with the Echo Hill
 Community! Email us at
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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 your support to the world. Donate to EHC 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.**