

CAMP CHATTER



ISSUE XVII

Winter Spring 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1: Introducing Maeve Collins.

Page 2: RHAM Lacrosse & Wethersfield Boy Scouts, Camp Volunteers.

Page 3: What's the Buzz, Food Service, Upper Crust.

Page 4: M.Collins Continued.
Six degrees of 4-H Camp.

Page 5: The 2023-2024 Donor Honor Roll.

Page 6: New Projects for Summer 2024.

Page 7: Annual Fund Drive Appeal.

Page 8: History of 4-H.
History of 4-H Camp in Marlborough.
Nominate a Camp Volunteer.
Keeping track of You.



Introducing Associate Director, Maeve Collins

Hello everybody, my name is Maeve Collins! After attending camp as a camper, counselor, and staff for twelve summers, I am honored and thrilled to continue my camp journey as Associate Director. I look forward to continuing to 'make the best better' in this new role! Here's a little bit about me, so you can get to know me better before the camping season:

Camp has always been a family experience for me. Throughout my childhood, my family would put aside our hectic lives and enroll all my cousins and sisters in a week of camp. My cousin, Mags, and I stayed at camp for over a decade together. We bunked as campers, lived in cabins as co-counselors, and worked on staff for three summers. I think one of the most profound impacts of camp is its generational impact and the opportunity we provide to foster these relationships. We cultivate biological families and chosen families, making HC4H's impact long-lasting and valuable.

During my time as program staff, I was lucky enough to have worked under a director who encouraged me to push boundaries and be creative. While I did teach some traditional classes like outpost and lacrosse, I loved to mix things up and help campers try new things. Some of my favorite classes to teach were butter churning, candle-making, sock puppetry, and underwater basket weaving. I never want to pass up an opportunity to teach a new skill that can help nurture our camper's creativity and self-reliance.

Continued on Page 4

RHAM High School Men & Women's Lacrosse team community service

By Jenn Paragone

On April 10, the RHAM High School lacrosse program teamed up with Hartford County 4-H camp to do their yearly community service project during April break. The program picked HC4-H as a way to give back to their community. Many players are familiar with camp because they have attended as campers and counselors. The men and women's teams showed up and worked together to weed, rake and mulch around camp. Camp is looking great thanks to their hard work!



Paxton Smith, Eagle Scout Project Wethersfield Scout Troop 85

By Peter Brzezicki

On Saturday April 27, 2024 the Scouts, leaders and parents of Wethersfield Scout Troop 85 completed a community service project at Camp. The project was to build a much-needed set of stairs to access the boating equipment shed at the pond. The project was led by Life Scout Paxton Smith as one of his Eagle Scout rank requirements. Paxton started planning for the project last fall - including a design, materials and tools lists, safety planning and scheduling. Next time you're at Camp walk down to the pond and check out the great job Paxton and the other volunteers accomplished.



What's the Buzz

Louise Corsair Mather, longtime resident of South Windsor passed peacefully April 10, 2024, at 99 years old. Mrs. Mather was a long time 4-H Leader and active supporter of 4-H Camp. She helped start the 4-H Mini Camp program for younger children. As is often the case 4-H Camp was a family affair for the Mathers. Her husband **Clayton**, "**Chuck**" served as Camp Board President who along with **Dick Woolam** and **Bob Church** were instrumental in starting the horse program at Camp. The Mather's daughters, **Anne** and **Mary Lou** served several years as Horse Camp staff. Sons, **Richard** and **Tom** were campers and counselors. Tom has continued the tradition of running the Mather Countertop Systems business which has done many projects at Camp over a 60 year span. **Anne** met her husband, **Mike Brzezicki**, while they were both working as Camp Staff.

Congratulations to **Pascal Bershee**, daughter of HC4H Alumni **Kristen Kingsbury** and granddaughter of **Bruce & Kathy Kingsbury**. Pascal took home 1st place on her floor routine and qualified for the State gymnastics competition in Washington. Pascal is a junior in high school, works part-time at a local nursing home with hopes of attending college to become a pediatric surgeon.

Allyson Zoppa (Camper /Counselor 1993-2004) and wife Alison Abrams welcomed a baby girl, Aubrey Dylan, on October 30, 2023.

Richard Riley Jr. "Ricky" 1/31/63 - 4/22/24.



Rick was a comfortable cowboy, riding where and when it pleased him. A member of the **Hillstown Leather Pounders 4-H Club**, Rick entered the show ring with a casual seat and perfect balance. Athletic, adventurous (reckless, fearless), Rick joined the Army as a paratrooper and

participated in the invasion of Grenada. A skilled craftsman, Rick worked 30 years in industry as a sheet metal specialist. Husband, son, brother, father, and grandfather are all titles Rick will be remembered for.

Rodney Gilbert, 4-H camper, counselor and one of the first staff members at 4-H Camp in Marlborough and 4-H Fair President, was named to the Livestock Hall of Fame at Keystone International Livestock Expo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Gilbert graduated from UConn with a BS in three majors, Dairy, Meats, & Livestock. He furthered his education with a masters degree in Livestock Management. After graduation he and his wife **Barbara** moved to Pennsylvania, where he taught Livestock Management at Delaware Valley University. Rodney has been awarded the DelVal Distinguished Faculty Award, as well as UConn College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Distinguished Alumni Award. Gilbert retired from DelVal after 43 years, he and his wife presently live in RI.

Welcome Upper Crust Camp Food Service

By Val Tralongo



Hello Hartford County 4-H camp family, here's hoping you are just as excited for summer 2024 as we are! 2023 was Hartford County 4-H Camp's first experiment with shifting the responsibility of managing our kitchen. Unfortunately, the fit wasn't quite right. With the leadership and guidance of our directors, former staff members, and the volunteer members of the Hartford County 4-H Camp Board of Trustees, we have begun a new partnership with the team at Upper Crust Food Services (UCFS) for summer 2024. UCFS is a national company with the experience with not just summer camps but in servicing fraternities and sororities on campuses throughout the United States. We look forward to the UCFS experience managing similar sized camps to keep our 4-H kids and staff happy, our kitchens clean and well stocked, and with just the right amount of the special secret sauce that is Hartford County 4-H Camp. As such, we have begun building daily meal plans and specialty meals (hike day cook-out anyone!!) as well as making plans for our usual extras, like an occasional outpost cooking adventure, with Upper Crust Food Services. We look forward to your feedback on summer 2024, hopefully in the form of empty plates & happy campers!

Introducing Maeve Collins continued

For those who know me, it is no secret that my favorite part of camp is the programs. I love to work with our staff to come up with creative new ideas that maintain our traditions while integrating modern and engaging experiences for our campers. Over the years, I've written numerous new programs with The Trail to Oregon, The Pony Express, Survivor, HORSE, and Invisible Campers being some of my favorites! I couldn't be more excited to take the reins as AD and put my energy into making our full-camp programming as exciting and enriching as possible.

Outside of camp, I am an avid baker and crossword-er and love to spend time with my three dogs: Hugo, Hexe, and Louis. I am graduating from UConn in May with a degree in Human Development & Family Science and hope to pursue a career in social work. I'm incredibly passionate about working with children and families and can't wait to bring that passion to the camp environment.

With all that being said, I can't wait for camp this summer. There's nothing better than spending time with campers down at the pond, watching cabins work together during afternoon programs, jumping around at the dance, and creating lasting memories for our campers, counselors, and staff. I am endlessly grateful for the opportunity to give back to my camp community and give the AD position everything I've got!

Six Degrees of 4-H Camp By Patty (Riordan) Miele



A few years ago, before the internet, I was at a Day of Caring event painting walls with some of my colleagues. One of them was **Susan Paine**, who I knew had attended Hartford County 4-H Camp in her youth. We had exchanged greetings that day and got on with our task.

I asked Sue about a mutual friend, **Joe Brzezicki** (who also attended camp with us). She gave me an update, when a colleague painting at an opposite wall exclaimed, 'I know Joe Brzezicki - from Bristol. How do *you* know Joe?' In perfect synchrony, Sue and I answered, "Hartford County 4-H Camp!" That's when the fourth painter exclaimed, "I went to 4-H Camp!". As we painted, we reminisced about our camp experiences. It was fun and fascinating finding the connections

and friendships made because of 4-H Camp.

Now that we have the internet, and social media, it's even easier to keep in contact with 4-H friends from all over the country and for that matter, the world. I always joke that I can go to any state in the US and find a friend from 4-H and 4-H Camp. Friends like **Brian and Brenda Moulton Lamb** (married – they met at camp) in Illinois, **Betsy Martinson** in Colorado, **Abby Rocker Hills** (Mass), her sister **Lynn Rocker** (CT) and Lynn's son **Matt Rocker** (FL) and so many more – like International staff **Anka** (Poland), **Emilio Maniche** (Denmark) and **Michele, Simona and Benedetta Ferraris** (Italy and beyond). I didn't even attend camp with some of these folks. I met many at the birthday party reunions, held every five years (the next one is in 2025).

What also amazes me is the 'six degrees of 4-H Camp' on Facebook - when I click on a non-4-H friend and find we have a mutual 4-H friend! I noticed my non-4-H cousin Stephanie was friends with **Pat Douglas**. I found out they went to college together! And then a friend Jan, who's friends with **Anne Willard**. Turns out, they worked at Suffield High together.

And my friend and old neighbor Karen works with **Liz Mills**! I'm still finding more – Like how does my friend and hiking partner know **Judy Cook Guarco**? My friend Laura from here in Windsor is friends with **Kathy Smith Lilley**, and **Stacie Nicholas** works with my sister-in-law. And there are so many more of those connections.

And while I am amused and excited, I am not surprised. The 4-H program and the 4-H Camp cultivates these long-lasting friendships. And when you go to camp, we get the wonderful opportunity to cast that net of friendship far and wide.

I've been fortunate to continue my association with the 4-H Club program and 4-H Camp and am lucky to have so many friends from so long ago as we serve on the Camp Board of Trustees, work together at the 4-H Fair and volunteer with the 4-H Club. I cherish all my 4-H friends, far and near. As the saying goes 'Camp friends are forever friends' and boy, is it true.

See you at the next Birthday Party!

Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center - Camp Chatter –

The 2023-2024 DONOR HONOR ROLL

Camp Spirit \$2000 and above

Anonymous - *Camperships for 2024 to honor
Elsie Woolam's many years of service.*

Friend of 4-H

Cathryn Kibby

Michael & Vicky Pelletier *RTX/Pratt & Whitney,
Travelers Match*

Town of Marlborough

Valerie Tralongo *CIGNA Match*

Health \$1000.-\$1999.

Thomas & Lily Cantwell

Highland Park Families Foundation

Hands \$500. \$999.

Anonymous

Mary Andresen

Paul & Irene Cordilico

Patricia Leshane

Matulis Family Fidelity Charitable Fund

Laura and Allen Penda

Brice Philip

Heart \$250-\$499.

Mary Blouin Auffert

Tom Baldwin

The Bradley Family

John & Marie Garaventa

HHI Property Services

Head \$100-\$249

Anonymous (4)

Mary Baldyga

Heidi Ball

Robert & Laura Bengston

Lonny Bowers

Wallis & Laurie Boyd

Julie Brennen

Bower Family

Beth Ferri *Voya Match*

Daniel Camarro

Thomas & Joanne Chmielewski & Britton

Richard/Christina Dube

Lorraine Ferguson

Melanie Flynn

Rodney & Barbara Gilbert

Margaret Griffin

Craig Hansen

Roger Hayes

Maureen C Hickey

Deborah Klene

Dan Lombardo

Doris & Dianne Lynch

Pamela Marra

Edward & Anne Merritt

Patricia Miele

Pitler Family *Vanguard (1:1 match)*

Christine Sallstrom

Amanda Shumate

Skyz The Limit Performance Horses, LLC

Joseph & Ann Staniunas

Reagan Stone

Erik Sundquist

Jim & Renee Tavares

Patricia Temple

Heather Thomas

Sharon & Scott Tripp

Nancy & Jimmy Watt

Charles R Woolam

Clover \$1-\$99.

Christine & Frank Angell

Joann D. & Keith Blythe

Paula Brinton

Tami Christopher

Richard & Susan Coleman

Louise Concodello

Jennifer and Wesley Cushman

Carol Dansereau

Lis Diemer

Andrew & Michele Dubois

John England

Gladys Fetzner

Forman Family

Patricia Garthwaite Towle

Alicia & Todd Haffner

Jay Judd

Nancy & Leonard Krist

Ken and Janna Lombardo

Joshua & Sarah Martin

Marc & Jean Nemeth

Richard & Terry Roach

Arthur C. Scheithauer, Jr

Lynda & David Sprafke

William & Jennifer Syme

Kathleen Temple

Frank / Laurie Tomaszek

Robert & Barbara Vilecco

Michael & Connie Wittke Swetzes

Jason Wojnar

Roger Young

Tamara Zimmer *Travelers Match*

IN KIND

**We would like to thank some of the
following businesses for contributing a
portion of or all services to the success
of the 2024 4-H Camping season.**

Peter Brzezicki, Wethersfield, CT

Bradley and Sons Plumbing, Marlborough, CT

HHI Property Services, Coventry, CT

J.Matulus Attorney at Law, New Britain, CT

Paragone Family, Amston CT.

Pelweld Industires, Glastonbury, CT

Picard Land Surveying, Marlborough, CT

Professional Electric, East Hampton, CT

Sullivan Paving, Essex CT

Vallid Labs, Agawam, MA

Zoppa Studio LLC, South Windsor, Ct

In Memory of Janice Sirote

Philip J Katzman

Brouwer Family

Michele Kaye

**I have a conviction that a few weeks
spent at a well organized summer
camp may be of more value
educationally than a whole year of
formal school work.**

Charles William Eliot 1834-1926
American Educator, Poet
President of Harvard University

The Hartford County 4-H Camp
Board of Trustees wishes to extend
our sincere **THANKS** to this years
Donors, and Volunteers.
As of April 8th 2024

Hartford County 4-H Camp Mission Statement

An outdoor center that provides a safe, fun, inclusive, enriching experience with an appreciation for the environment through learning by doing.

4-H Camp is a place where 4-H principles are valued and personal growth fostered by honoring 4-H Camp traditions while creating new opportunities for all.

New for Summer of 2024 Pavilion & Amphitheater By Peter Brzezicki



The Wednesday Morning Group is a collection of mainly retired, second shift and self-employed folks who meet at camp once a week to take on building and maintenance projects. The Group worked in the fall of 2023 until Thanksgiving and started up again at the end of February 2024.

Major projects for this summer camp season include relocating the stage from the amphitheater area to a more central location at Camp and also assisting our contractors with work on the new Ferguson Pavilion. Work accomplished during this time includes disassembling, hauling and reassembling the stage, building a retaining wall near the pavilion, installing drainage pipes and staining of 2,000 square feet of ceiling boards and trim for the pavilion.

*With sincere thanks to this season's Wednesday Morning Group.
Robert Bengston, Peter Brzezicki, Patricia Dillon, John Garaventa,
John Mahoney, Michael Pelletier, Vicky Pelletier, Bob Pelton, Alan Penda,
Laura Penda, Sharon Tripp & Scott Tripp.*



Calling all Volunteers.

Grab a shovel, paint brush, hammer and nails. Join us in making the best better.

Email Peter Brzezicki at peters_ccats@att.net

Dates to Remember

Work Weekends, May 11th, 18th & 19th 9:00-4:00pm

Pavilion Dedication & Open House, June 2nd, 2024.

First Week of Camp (Horse) June 16th - June 22nd.
Last week of Camp August 4th-10th

90/60 Birthday Party & Reunion 60 years in
Marlborough, 90th year HC4H camping
Aug. 29-31 2025

Sponsor A Camp Horse for the 2024 Summer

Help keep horses at HC4H camp, and help children have a hands on Horse Activity experience!

Contact : Amy Balko 860-305-8230

(Call or Text Friendly) Amymatulis@gmail.com



4-H Camp Wishing Ceremony.



**Donate to 4-H
Camp's Annual
Capital &
Endowment
Campaign**

Help make camps' wishes come true. It is not too late to support this year's **Annual Fund Drive**

Hartford County 4-H Camp's Endowment Fund provides an opportunity for gifts to be placed in an Endowment with only the interest earnings to be used for pressing projects outside of the operating budget, while the principal provides a financial base for the 4-H Camp.

Hartford County 4-H Camp's Working Capital Fund provides an avenue for gifts to be utilized to establish a working capital fund to meet cash flow needs for various projects. This fund is not used by the annual operating budgets. The establishment of a firm financial base is essential for the long term development of 4-H Camp.

Another way to support Hartford County 4-H Camp

There's an old saying, 4-H is more than Cows and Cookin'

Do You have a special Skill, Interest or Hobby you could share with youth?

Please consider volunteering with a 4-H Club near you, **OR** start your own. Try it for just several months, on your schedule.

Contact Jenn Cushman

jennifer.cushman@uconn.edu

Hartford County 4-H Extension Educator

VOLUNTEER WITH 4-H



BECOME A MEMBER



**QUESTIONS? EMAIL
HARTFORD@UCONN.EDU**

Keeping Track of you!

Marriages, Births, Job Changes,
Moving, other News

Help us keep in touch with Camp Alumni.
Who do you know, how do we get back in touch?

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email Address: _____
Camp Date(s) Attended: _____
News for Camp Chatter: _____

What is the most effective way to stay in touch with
You. USPost ☐ Email ☐ Other ☐

Would you be interested in serving on our
Camp Board? _____
Would you be interested in running a 4-H Club? _____

Contact:
Peggy Forman peggyf682@gmail.com
PO Box 1094
Manchester Ct 06040



Nomination packet can be found at
s.uconn.edu/4Hawards25

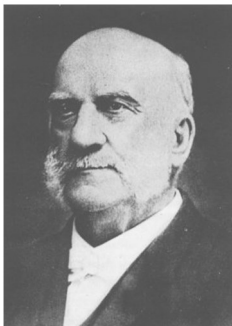
Looking for Contributors to Camp Chatter

Do you have a good story, a
cherished memory, News of
Camp Alumni, Someone we
should Profile?

Let us know, or better yet
write an article for Chatter
yourself.

Send Submissions to
John@GaraventaPhotography.com

The History of 4-H Seaman Knapp



1833-1911

Father of Cooperative Extension

In 1906 Knapp initiated the county-agent
plan, and he organized boys' cotton and
corn growing clubs to promote his
agricultural ideas. In 1910 a girls corn
and poultry clubs were introduced, becoming
the forerunners of modern 4-H Clubs.



**New Amphitheater in the
Cedar Grove**

History of Hartford County 4-H Camp, Marlborough CT



4-H FUTURE: Groundbreaking ceremonies took place Sunday for a new Hartford County 4-H building on a high hill overlooking some 70 acres in Marlborough. Taking part in the ceremonies are, l to r, Gene Shepard, South Windsor, chairman of the special gifts committee, Senator Fred Dooey of East Hartford, who with 4-H member Kathleen McGowan of New Britain, broke ground, and County agent Edward Merritt of Manchester (Courant Photo by Art Warmley).

**Ground Breaking Ceremony
October 3rd 1965**



Allyson Pequita
Office Manager
Hartford County 4-H Camp
29 **Monroe Rd.**
Enfield, CT 06082