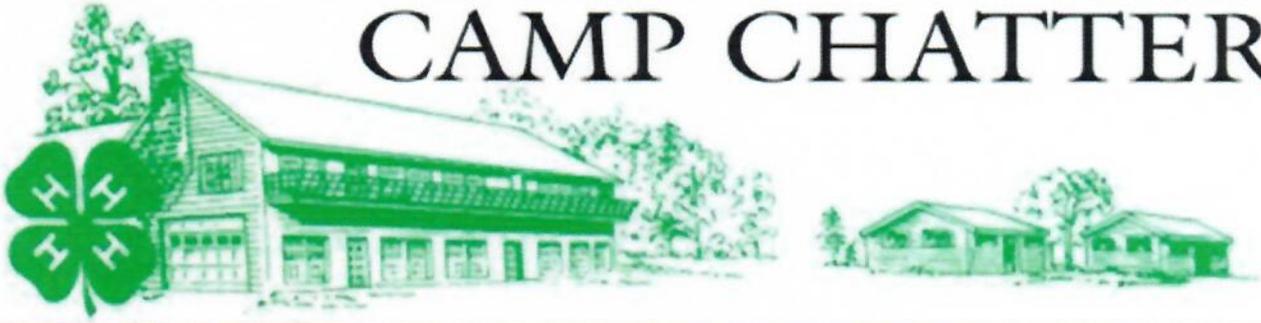


CAMP CHATTER



ISSUE XX

Fall 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1: 1748 days to go.

Page 2: Horse Barn Renovation Project

Page 3: 2025 Camp Spirit & Counselor, & Past year plaques.

Page 4: Silent Auction & Useful skills learned at camp.

Page 5: Sharing the magic of camp. & Staff canoe trip.

Page 6: Birthday photos, & 1748 days continued

Page 7: Camp Pond, Yet another Reason. Annual Fund Drive Appeal & Ways to Support 4-H

Page 8: Keeping Track of You. History of 4-H, & History of HC4-H Camp

1,748 days till the next reunion!

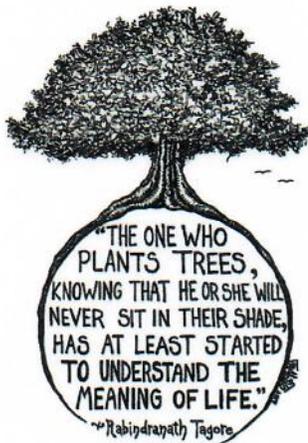
By Kirsten Gometz Staff 1990, 91, 92, 97, and 98

Whether we'd come was never the question.

What time will you get there? How many of us can we fit in the cabin? Who has a Bluetooth speaker? Does anyone know if Nature Ed figured out how to use Facebook yet?

Those were the questions. But whether we'd be at the Camp Reunion? OF COURSE.

In our generational group, besides Connecticut, we arrived from California, Washington, Virginia, Massachusetts, the UK, and Switzerland. We came to see not only one another and the place that shaped us, but to see the staff we looked up to, to meet the children of the kids who once clamored to sign up for our activities, and to remember those we have lost since the last reunion.



Continued on page 6

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture Supports Camp's Horse Barn Restoration Project

By: Cindy McGuire Maheu

The Hartford County 4-H Camp Board of Trustees is excited to announce that Camp has been awarded the 2025 State of Connecticut Agricultural Enhancement Grant. It is an honor to be chosen for this award and to be recognized for the work we do to support 4-H youth programming.

The goal is to refurbish the two existing horse barns at the Woolam Equestrian Center so we can continue to provide a safe equine experience for 4-H participants, with possible future expansion in other animal project areas. This project will increase the structural safety of the horse barns and will enhance the equestrian program by providing a safe environment for campers, staff, and their horses.

The two-year restoration project began June 1, 2025, with completion anticipated by May 31, 2027. The estimated project cost is \$73,000. This project will be funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act* for \$43,850, with Camp supporting the remaining 40% of project costs.

The restoration project will include the following barn improvements:

- Media blasting of steel posts, beams, and diagonals
- Repair of bases of deteriorated steel posts
- Replace of existing threaded rod diagonal supports in the roof
- Painting all beams, posts, and diagonal post supports
- Painting the exterior of horse stalls
- Replenishing the sand/stone dust in stalls/tack rooms
- Replace of electrical fixtures



The Camp Board of Trustees is very thankful to Peter Brzezicki, who has taken the lead on managing this project. This project would not have been implemented without his devotion and knowledge.

It is estimated that 440 volunteer hours will be needed to support this renovation. Many Camp Board volunteers have been busy painting, removing, and reinstalling angle iron diagonal supports. A local Boy Scout troop was also very helpful, assisting with power washing and painting the horse stalls. Work will resume in the spring. If you would like to volunteer an hour or a few hours to assist with this project, please feel free to contact Cindy Maheu at Cmaheu@hc4h.org.

The horse barn renovations will ensure the sustainability of Camp's equine program for decades to come. As the 4-H motto says, we are working to "make the best better."

Funding for this project was paid for by the Agricultural Enhancement Grant established by the Community Investment Act (C.G.S. Sec. 22-26j). Funding awarded and administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.



What's the Buzz
Summer of 2025 Counselor and Camp Spirits

Week 1

Camper: Dominic Casdia
Counselor: Sawyer Pequita
Head: Pearce McBride, Reagan Newfang
Heart: Julian Agrios, Molly Scoles
Hands: Charlotte Gilbert, Skylar Nascimento
Health: Emma Hilary, Ava McClain

Week 2

Camper: William Katz
Counselor: Maise Bruce
Head: Lena Trojanowski Charley Humphreys
Heart: Emma Cassedy Samuel Katz
Hands: Charlotte Sawyer Dash Palmer
Health: Everett Cote Elijah Bogle

Week 3

Camper: Adam Roche
Counselor: Violet Waniewski
Head: Dash Palmer, Zoey Stoddard
Heart: Maverick Grisevich, Sarah Fields
Hands: Dominic Paragone, Chloe Snide
Health: Kalen Rion, Trip Hana

Week 4

Camper: Owen Krajewski
Counselor: Kevin Sardo
Head: Dominic Paragone, Juliana DePasquale
Heart: Alexander Elomaa, Dylan Hawik
Hands: Teagan Monge, Dylan Forrest
Health: Anthony Aguanno, Genevieve Cosby

Week 5

Camper: Scarlett Formosa
Counselor: William Sellerberg
Head: Copper Pozezanac, Zoey Stoddard
Heart: Cole Ferron, Mari Pullen
Hands: Tom Mastergeorge, Harrison Serow
Health: Raegan Burnham, Will Sonkin

Week 6

Camper: Lyla Piper
Counselor: Chase Palmer
Head: Noah Brownbill, Edward Fravel
Heart: Evelyn Pollard, Ryan Krane
Hands: Caroline DiSanto, Sebastian McIntyre
Health: Cecily Fravel, Quinn Dickman

Week 7

Camper: Lyndon Mihalko
Counselor: Samantha Kohlun
Head: Logan Pasternak, Colin Nold
Heart: Vivienne Lovlace, Jaclyn Coffey
Hands: Mary Claire, Twombly Parker Nelson
Health: Quinn Collins, Tate Nold

From Elsie's Basement

Past Summer Plaques Counselor and Camp Spirits



Do you know any of these people? Please help us send these plaques to their rightful home.

First	Last	Award	Year
Becky	Albert	Spirit	1984
Becky	Albert	Counselor	1985
Josh	Brown	Counselor	1984
Amy	Ciestukowski	Counselor	1986
Molly	Clark	Counselor	1984
Jeanine	Cobbledick	Counselor	1985
Daryl	Dubaldo	Spirit	1984
Denise	Dubaldo	Spirit	1985
Cathy	Emerson	Counselor	1985
Jessica	Furbish	Spirit	1984
Lori	Galvin	Counselor	1984
Amy	Hansman	Counselor	1984
Amy	Hansman	Counselor	1985
Karen	Heath	Counselor	1985
Craig	Keegan	Spirit	1985
Robert	Keramidas	Spirit	1985
Liz	Korner	Counselor	1985
Carol	Lewis	Spirit	1974
Cheryl	Macy	Counselor	1985
Todd	Mancini	Counselor	1985
Lauren	Michaud	Counselor	1985
Michelle	Nipoti	Spirit	1984
Cheryl	Proctor	Spirit	1985
Yvonne	Reetlick	Counselor	1985
Cheryl	Riberio	Spirit	1984



Birthday Silent Auction

By Sharon Tripp

Labor Day weekend marked our third silent auction during a Camp's Birthday party. All of the gifts donated came from camper families, alumni, and friends of 4-H Camp. Half of Lower Baldwin was transposed into a wonderland of gifts thanks to the men and women of the Wednesday Warriors. The Warriors are a group of retired alumni who help out preparing camp for the following season.

We opened the auction early Saturday afternoon. The adults lingered in and out all day! The space ended up being a fun hangout for the parents while they could be with their family close by. As always our families didn't disappoint. Where else can you bid on pink Porto-Potties (5 years ago)?

Of course an activity at this level takes many hands to share the work. This committee met beginning in January. The gifts they collected were amazing! Here's just a few:

They included UConn basketball tickets, jewelry, gift bags, hand-made Cribbage board, hand made wooden stool, cigars, dozens of gift cards, hayride for 20, early bird camp registration, trips to the Carribean, Ice cream for eight months, framed photos around camp, framed art, as well as many more.

THANK YOU everyone for making this auction a success!



Useful Skills You Can Learn at 4-H Camp

By Patty Temple

When I think about some of the skills I learned at 4-H camp, one stands out for me in particular. As a first-time counselor, I was awakened one night by a strange rustling noise in the cabin. The campers all appeared to be soundly sleeping, and my flashlight soon revealed the source of the noise to be a skunk crouched under a corner bed, busy opening candy wrappers.

Inexperienced at skunk removal, I ran to the Camp Director's cabin and woke Elsie Woolam to explain the situation. We both returned to the cabin, where Elsie quietly propped open the cabin door. From outside the cabin she aimed her flashlight through a window screen, positioning the beam at the back of the cabin just behind the skunk. Bothered by the light, the skunk moved forward by a foot or two, and Elsie moved the flashlight beam right up behind it. The skunk moved away from the light again, and Elsie continued pointing that beam behind the skunk until she had walked that skunk right out the door. No muss, no fuss and not a single camper awakened. It was a master class in skunk wrangling.

Should I ever again need to remove a skunk from a room full of sleeping people, I know I've got the skills for the job, thanks to Elsie and my time at 4-H camp.



Patty Temple and sister Noreen Temple Walsh

Sharing the Magic of Camp

By Chris Dutton

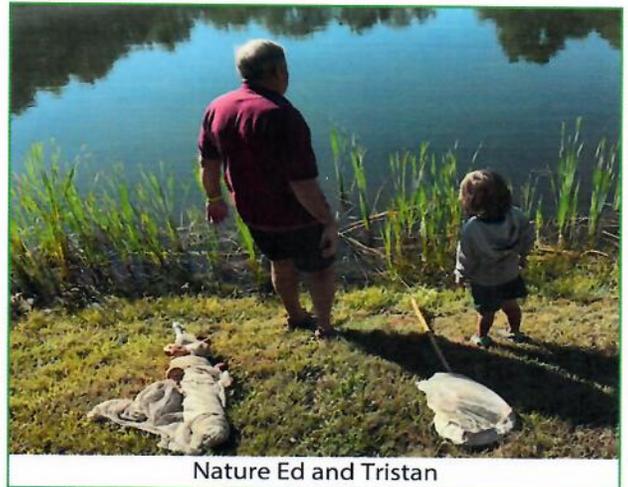
After spending the majority of my early life as a mini-camper, camper, counselor, staff, associate director, and director of Hartford County 4-H Camp, it had been a lot of years since I had been to 247 South Road, and was looking forward to the Birthday Party for a while.

I had been wanting to take Tristan, my oldest son (3.5) camping over the summer, but it didn't work out, so I thought that the Birthday Party would be a good way to introduce him to not only camping out, but to camp. We set up a tent on the boys side, got settled, and headed over to Baldwin Hall. Tristan got to meet camp friends old and new (all new for him!), run around, have snack, and laugh at the silliness of Newspaper before settling into a more contemplative (and sleepy) mode for Vespers.

By lunchtime on Saturday, he had dirt on his face and under his nails, had caught fish and bugs with Nature Ed, had made bracelets, gone on a "hike" and played tetherball with other upcoming campers. Camp was instrumental in bringing me out of my shell – it was amazing to watch it happen in real time for my little one. Anyone who's met him knows Tristan isn't very reserved, but to watch him, in such a short time, go from checking the place out and observing, to introducing himself to campers young and old, to helping clear the tables at breakfast on Sunday morning, was a treat.

Sunday morning, I stopped at the wash places on the way to Flag, and told him, keep going down the path, and I'll catch up in a minute. When I came out, I realized that the transformation was complete and any doubt that he would become a camper vanished. He had taken himself all the way to the flag pole, connected with someone he recognized, and was waiting for the day of fun to begin.

A few days later, while I was helping him get ready for a bath, he proudly showed me that he still had his meal plan bracelet on from the Birthday Weekend. He told me he was still wearing it so he could remember our weekend at camp.



Nature Ed and Tristan

Half way through summer camp staff canoe trip

By John Garaventa



Camp Board sponsored a "Half Way There" canoe trip down the Connecticut River for summer staff members on Saturday July 19th. Special thanks to board member Bob Pelton for giving a tour of the Bissell Ferry House and the former South Windsor Poor Farm. With hopes we can make this an annual event for staff



1,748 days till the next reunion!

Continued from Page 1

There were surprises. Meeting the vibrant new generation of staff, learning new vespers songs ("Did they just say 'passed out on the overpass?' We would have never gotten away with that!"), finding decades-old signatures on the quilts in Lower Baldwin, and trying to figure out where the heck the staff sleep now. Also, how incredibly loud some of us snore now!

Reunion Weekend 2025 was the perfect blend of scheduled and loose, reminiscing and looking ahead, smoke-smelling sweats and promises to return. New friends and old. Silver and gold.

...and tonight will go on forever.



Special thanks to donors whose donation came in after the deadline of our last newsletter.

HEALTH \$1999 - \$1000

Anonymous Foundation
Peter DiCorleto

HANDS \$999 - \$500

Marti and Bill Aman for horse camp
Bruce Gilbert in memory of Richard Quimby

HEAD \$249 - \$100

Shirley Breuer in memory of
Megan Montgomery Fleckenstein
Debra Neilson in memory of
Rosemary Malin Wholley

CLOVER \$99 - 1.

Chaput Family
Sandra L. Horowitz in memory of
Rosemary Malin Wholley



4-H Camp Wishing Ceremony.
Leave a legacy, make wishes come true by supporting Hartford County 4-H Camp Inc.



SCAN ME

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



**Help make camps' wishes come true.
Please support this year's**

Annual Fund Drive

All Donations are tax deductible in care of.

Hartford County 4-H Camp Inc.

c/o Ally Pequita, Office Manager,
29 Monroe Road, Enfield, CT 06082

donate.hc4h.org

Yet another reason we need your support

This past summer our caretaker Bill Bradley discovered the 60 year old outlet drain pipe at the pond had corroded. After robotic inspection, it was determined the pipe could be relined. Drainage pipe relining is a cure-in-place process that will install a durable new liner inside our existing pipe, restoring strength and flow without the need for excavation. It's a fast, minimally invasive way to extend the life of our pond drain and prevent future leaks. It's a \$41,000 investment in the continuation of HC4-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

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. USPS 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

The History of 4-H

Head, Heart, Hands, **Hustle**???

The original H's were
not what you think

1915

The original four H's once stood for Head,
Heart, Hands and Hustle.

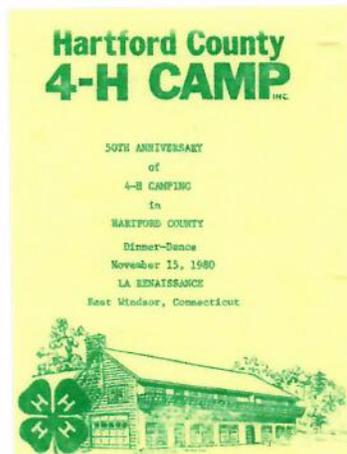
Sometime around 1915 state extension
leaders met to discuss the issue. It was
at that meeting when they settled on
health as a more appropriate alternative

Head Heart Hands & Health



1990s staff visited with Elsie Woolam
at her home in South Windsor after
the birthday party

History of Hartford County 4-H Camp, Marlborough CT



The first birthday party celebrating
50 years of Hartford County 4-H
Camp was held at LaRenaissance,
East Windsor, CT on Nov. 15th
1980.

Social Hour, Dinner, Dancing.

Master of Ceremonies: Butch
Brzezicki.

50 years of 4-H Camp: Edward H.
Merritt.

SPIRIT Multi Image Slide
presentation of 1980 4-H Camp: by
J.Garaventa

SAVE THE DATE - BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS

The 100th Birthday Party & Reunion

at Hartford County 4-H Camp.

2030

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



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



Hartford County 4-H CAMP

MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT

Dear Fellow Hartford County 4-H Camp Board Members

♪ "I'm your captain, I'm your captain." ♪

It was a simple song that I heard many times, sung by Mike Pace, around campfires at Hartford County 4-H Camp. **AND**, it was **stuck** in my head, and not without reason. I was driving a wheat combine, in a field and it really did look like "amber waves of grain", I felt like the captain of a ship. But, I was on a cultural 4-H exchange in the Ukraine, Soviet Republic of the USSR, thousands of miles away, homesick for 4-H camp. Isn't it interesting what can bring back memories of 4-H camp, a place that has left such a lasting impact on our lives? It could be a song, the crackle of a campfire, the sound of a slammed screen door. For me, Hartford County 4-H Camp had a major influence in the trajectory of my life, and I suspect that it has done the same for you.

4-H camp celebrated its 60th anniversary in Marlborough and its 90th year of camping this year, Camp provides youth the opportunity to experience the outdoors, gain independence, and learn new skills, while fostering new friendships and gaining confidence to be tomorrow's leaders.

I hope you will join me in supporting 4-H camp during the 2025-2026 annual fundraising campaign. Here's how you can direct your much-appreciated donation:

Capital Improvement

Your support will assist with capital improvements, such as a feasibility study to improve bathroom facilities in the cabin areas with upgrades to septic, water, and electrical systems; installing new cabin roofs; dangerous tree removal; and a future investment in the installation of air conditioning in Baldwin Hall.

Endowment

Your support will maintain long-term investment income for the camp's future.

Campership

Your support directly funds resources that make camp available for everyone.

A donation of any size will help maintain the camp's infrastructure and allow youth to build a brighter future, one that begins at Hartford County 4-H Camp. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

John Garaventa, President

Happy New Year

