

Mountain Wisdom Messenger

Spring 2008

2008 Camp Date Set!

By Hawkeye Jay

Ready Set Go! The wheels have been put into motion. The starter's gun has signaled the beginning of the 2008 camp! Mountain Wisdom Inc. is proud to announce the 2008 camp schedule. The BROP and NOWAC camps will be held on July 13 – 19!

Details and planning for summer camp 2008 are brighter than ever. We will be enjoying the abundant richness of the beautiful Chattahoochee National Forest again this year. We will have loads of fun during challenging, outdoor activities in the wilderness. If you are a graduate of the Boys' Rites of Passage Camp, register for the New Outlook Adventure Wilderness Camp. Backpacking, camping, rock climbing, repelling and white water rafting are some of the planned expeditions you will experience in the NOWAC Camp during the week.

Our awesome, experienced, staff will be there to guide and mentor you with support and encouragement. Looking forward to seeing each of you standing tall, powerful, happy and healthy. All the best to you until then!

Daniel Peters: From Boy to Man From Camper to Staff

By Hawkeye Jay

Daniel was born and raised in Ellijay, Georgia. He lost his father due to an auto accident when he was only a young boy. His father taught him many outdoor skills. His mother has always been there for him; but not having his father was always tough.

Daniel saw an article in the newspaper about the Boys' Rites of Passage Camp and telephoned me. I can still remember that first conversation. He was so enthusiastic and was excited about the Boys' Rites of Passage Camp. He was one of our first campers five years ago. During the first year of camp he was a leader and the boys looked up to him. The second year he was a Staff in Training and "shined" mentoring and teaching the campers his extensive wilderness skills and knowledge. The third year Daniel served as staff for our first New Outlook Wilderness Adventure Camp. With all his wilderness skills and training he has been invaluable to our program and has been an inspiration to watch grow.

When asked, "What has your experience been like with Mountain Wisdom, Inc.?" he said, "it has been one of the best things in my whole life. Even if you think you know a lot about the wilderness and life, do the Boys' Rites of Passage Camp because you will learn so much more from this staff. Every boy should do it." (Continued on page 2)

Shelter Building

By Joel Holtzman

Hello young men! It's still a little cold outside maybe even rain is coming down this time of year. This is a perfect time to practice your shelter building skills.

Shelter building is a time-honored practice for people around the world. Native peoples, using natural materials, used temporary shelter building while on hunting, trade, and war expeditions. Temporary shelters enabled these travelers to carry more weapons, and trade goods to and from their destinations. They did not have to carry shelter-building materials with them! Remember the shelters we built last year?

Shelter building serves several purposes. Keeping dry, warm and or cool is necessary to survive during bad weather. A stand of trees near your house or even an open field will work to practice in.

If you are in the woods look for a tree limb that is leaning over level with ground. If you can't find one like this, find a downed limb you can lean against a fork in the trees or on top of a large log. This limb will be the apex or ridge of your shelter. Make sure the ridgepole is strong enough to hold your weight. Now find smaller branches and lean them tightly together against the ridgepole like an "A" frame- kind of like the roof of your house. Leave one end open to enter and enclose the other. Now pile leaves, large slabs of bark from dead tree logs, or pine straw on top of the "A" frame branches. If it is raining or will, dig a trench around the outside of the shelter to divert water from running inside.

You can also use a tarp to build an "A" frame shelter. You say native peoples didn't have tarps, but they did! Properly prepared animal hides served not only as clothing but also as shelter building materials. Give it a try and show us what you learned at this year's camp.

Director's Message

By Hawkeye Jay

Spring has sprung; the daffodils are in full bloom and we just had 2" of snow this morning here in North Georgia. Living in the Appalachian Mountains with the changing of the seasons and diversity of flora and fauna creates an environment that inspires us to walk lightly (leave less footprints) and encourage others to do the same. Making time to connect with ourselves and our natural world is of the utmost importance to our well-being. Whether it is an outdoor sport or hiking in the woods, sleeping in a tent, being still by a creek, fishing or backpacking up a mountain make the effort to be in nature and you will surely be glad you did. You will have a lot of fun, feel good, be healthier and build your self-esteem.

I am happy to announce on Sat., April 5th we are having a Mountain Wisdom, Inc. Reunion and Guest Retreat at the Ellijay Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary. This retreat is your way to connect back with your camp experience, friends and staff while having lots of fun and being supported on your journey. Also, invite friends to come get a sample of what the Boys' Rites of Passage Camp is all about. Invite your father, or other important man in your life, to come share in the experience. Some of the activities include:

Activities include: interactive, cooperative and competitive games, delicious hearty food, and a tour of the Ellijay Wildlife Sanctuary which includes mountain lions, bears, reptiles and small critters. A ropes course, creek hike and campfire circle are planned. No need to bring tents cabins will available.

This will be an event you don't want to miss. Hope to see you there.

Mountain Wisdom, Inc., Reunion and Guest Retreat
Saturday, April 5, 10:00 AM – Sunday April 6th 11:00 AM: for all graduates, guests, fathers or other important men in your life.

Activities include: interactive, cooperative and competitive games, delicious hearty food, and a tour of the Ellijay Wildlife Sanctuary which includes mountain lions, bears, reptiles and small critters. A ropes course, creek hike and campfire circle are planned. No need to bring tents. Cabins will be available. Check out our web site: <http://www.boysritesofpassage.com> for more information or call 706-276-2595.

Mountain Wisdom Inc. wishes to recognize and honor our many donors.

2008

Bronze Level

Lucy Gottlieb

Silver Level

Arnold & Esther Zipperman

Gold Level

Platinum Level

Gilbert Treadwell

Hero Level

2007

Bronze Level

Philip Zenner, Keith Bordeaux,

Steve Crossley, Carolyn

Holloway, Jake Waldrop, Blake

Cooper, William Bozarth, John

Kilburn, Steve Jones, Thomas

Thurmond, David Hesla

Silver Level

Myra & Roland Kort, United

Community Bank, C&I

Properties (Rex Horney), David

Farra, Linda Davis, Atlanta

Computer Solutions (Leonard

Juneau), Great American T-

Shirts, Tallent Images, John

Dammann, Barry Zipperman,

Tim Goodnow, Stan Levine,

Dennis Levine, Ron Levine, John

Christopher-Meghrian, Alan

Halpern, Peter Michelson, Jerry

Smith, Consumers Choice (Derek

Ritchie)

Gold Level

Donald Holloway, Sr.

Platinum Level

Tecton Inc., (Arthur Cohen, Alan

Glickson), Paul & Marylyn Vail,

Curt Waldron, Amicalola EMC

Trust, Olly Gallagher, Brian

Childers, Chip Weldon, Jack

Brown, Michael Isaacs & Ann

Hazzard, Net Plan (Don Fortner),

Joel Holtzman, Don Dollar, Tim

Amidon

Hero Level

Craddock Center, Don Mahaffey,

Don Bayliss

2005-2006

Bronze Level

Patriot Group (Rob "Waldo"

Walman)

Silver Level

United Community Bank,

Horizon Multimedia Inc. (Tim

Gafnea), Atlanta Computer

Solutions (Leonard Juneau),

Thomas Thurmond, Jeanie &

Albert Marx, Barry Zipperman,

Roland & Myra Kort

Gold Level

Jim Miglianaco, Georgia

Packaging

Platinum Level

Michael Isaacs & Ann Hazzard,

Jack Brown, R W Packaging,

Amicalola EMC Trust, Paul &

Marylyn Vail, Olly Gallagher,

Donald Dollar, Tim Amidon,

Brian Childers, Alan Halpern,

Ralph Lee MD

Hero Level

Craddock Center, Don Mahaffey

Bronze Level \$25 - \$99

Silver Level: \$100 -

\$299

Gold Level: \$300 - \$499

Platinum Level: \$500 -

\$999

Hero Level: \$1,000 +

Daniel Peters (continued)

Daniel joined the Gilmer County Search and Rescue team in June of 2002. He was, and still is, the youngest member. He has been trained in man tracking, wilderness training, EMT first aid, vehicle extraction, swift water rescue and map reading. He has excelled at everything and now has been promoted to Team Leader for searches. He has rescued several people and recently was involved in the Meredith Emerson search.

Daniel enlisted in the Marine Reserves on Feb. 12, 2007 and spent 13 weeks at Paris Island for Basic Training. He next was sent to Camp Devil Dog in South Carolina for infantry school to learn combat tactics and convoy operations for eight weeks.

After that, he was sent to Twenty-Nine Palms, California where he was trained in desert warfare and radio operations. Daniel was recognized as a leader of men and was promoted to a CC (Class Commander) over 30 marines.

Daniel's training continued at Camp Pendleton, California taking a reconnaissance course (special forces). Daniel amazed his officers and was honored as an expert marksman on the M-16 rifle. Daniel is currently serving the Marine Reserves in the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion.

Daniel is now 20 years old, has come home to Ellijay, and is married to Rebecca and works for the Gilmer County Sheriff's Department. He is the father of a 3-year-old boy and Rebecca is expecting in August.

Daniel says, "Nothing is impossible when you put your mind to it and don't be afraid to ask for help along the way. I want to "Protect and Serve" and be the best husband and father I can be. One day I hope to settle down with my family in Montana."

All of us here at Mountain Wisdom, Inc. are very proud of Daniel and look forward to having him back as a staff member when his schedule permits it. He is an all around awesome young man!

Publisher's View

By Joel Holtzman

The staff of Mountain Wisdom Inc. has begun the journey. BROP and NOWAC are never far from the hearts and minds of the staff through out the year.

Preparing for each years camp is not a sprint but a marathon. After each years camp the staff put their collective heads together and analyze what did and did not work during the past years camp. With that information the nuts and bolts of organizing and planning begins months in advance. Experience has taught the staff that the past is but a guideline for the future. Organizing menus, supplies, programming and volunteers are but a few of the challenges.

Securing funding for the more than 40% of each years participants, who with out scholarship help, would not be able to attend is always a challenge. Mountain Wisdom Inc. is very grateful for the individuals and companies that have contributed in the past and hope that we can depend on their generosity in the future. As we continue to search for new funding sources any suggestions or ideas that will point us in this direction would be appreciated.

All of our efforts put into planning and fund raising however will be for naught without the participation of the young men of our communities. Mountain Wisdom Inc. asks that you contact your neighbors, families, business associates, and friends and let them know who we are and what Boys Rites Of Passage is all about. Mountain Wisdom Inc. looks forward to hearing from you. If you need help or information please contact us. The journey has begun!

As the Mountain Wisdom Messenger publisher (continued in next column)

Thomas Moore

Contributed by Britt Williams

The world is fast losing its soul
But you don't have to surrender yours.
You don't have to live on a mechanical
globe.
You don't have to tame your deep-forest
passions.
You don't have to suppress your radiant
beauty.

Live your joy.
Go against the grain.
Don't be made timid by worried rejection.
Let nature's curious wisdom fill you.
Paint your canvases.
Play your tunes.

Give your all to the words that are born
from you.
Your father and your father's heaven
Will never abandon you,
But always love
The spark of your spirit.

Publisher's View (continued)

and a camp counselor, I have a unique perspective of the many volunteers who have made the BROP & NOWAC possible. From Hawkeye Jay and the councilors work and vision, to the many who show up to help with open houses, setting up and breaking down camp to all of the behind the scene efforts. All this would be next to impossible without the diligent and determined effort of Terry Zipperman – Hawkeye's other half. Thank you Terry for all you give!

**How to Reach Us
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