

Geneva Glen Breeze

CAMPER EDITION ... SPRING 2009



On-The-Dog-Beat

Canine Columnist: Huckleberry



Happy doglicking salutations from Huckleberry, GG's adorable black lab!

A special hello to you first-time campers. I'm the "official" GG greeter, and we all want you to feel welcome and comfortable at Geneva Glen as you join our camp family. Be sure to read the newcomer's message from my masters, Ken and Nancy.

Spring seems to have come early to Indian Hills, and what a warm winter we have had. The Winter Workshop was lots of fun, with just enough snow for the tubing and a Bohemian Ice Cave that we found at the softball field! My favorite part is when you guys make cookies to decorate and lots of it falls on the floor for me. I seem to have more canine courage with the bigger kids than with the juniors, so Lucy Brown-Dog and I hang out on your sleeping bags and lounge on willing laps.

Reid tells us that two new baby horses will romp around the corral again this June. Nancy already is primed with possible names like "McWhinney," "Lollygag," and "Hopscotch," all names Reid can't stand!! We all are heartbroken that noble

Tennessee headed off to that great blue pasture. He was a string leader and will be missed.

The elk and deer visit the meadow regularly, and five little whitetail came right up to Nancy's window. Lucy Brown-Dog and I chased them ... I go lickity-split, while Lucy moseys along, but we never catch them because they jump over the fence and scatter. Ken has a chokecherry bush outside his window, and a fat robin named Mr. Gil eats from the dried berries and drinks the water when it's not frozen solid!

All your cabins and dorms are in pretty good shape. No big spruce trees have fallen on them, despite the numerous wind storms we've had. The crew cabins look like a tornado hit them, but Ken says that's just the way the crew left them!

Huck's Health Tips: If you want to have a rollicking time at camp, follow my lead and drink LOTS of water! Camp's fresh spring water is the best remedy for our dry, hot days. When I run swifter than the wind, I get into a lather, and really need a long cool drink. Lucy Brown-Dog needs it just to keep all that Chocolate Lab drool lapping around her mouth! We know our camper pals need to regularly plug into the trough, or Ma's Fountain, or boys hill rock fountain so to keep your croaker oiled.

That's all for now guys, I'll be glad to see you soon!

Woof! Woof!



(Huck)

GG 2009 TRAINEE GARDEN



Raffle Winner

Alei Throckmorton, of Ft. Collins, was our lucky GG raffle winner during the official drawing at Winter Workshop. Alei is relatively new to GG, as this will be her second summer at camp. She will introduce camp to her little sister, who will be a junior-camper in American Heritage.

Thanks to all who took a chance on the raffle — it again was a big fundraising success, with proceeds going to fund scholarships for approximately four campers in the '09 summer.



Geneva Glen

Since 1922



Winter Workshop 2008!

Dear Santa,

Rompin' Rudolph Santa! You gave me a swell present for the holiday! The GG Winter Workshop was "wicked"! I saw all my camp buds, even the ones that come from places like Virginia, Kansas, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, California and Wisconsin! There were more than 100 of us veterans, slogging through the white stuff in the meadow.

The staff came to entertain us – lots of favorites like Stanesco, Linsmayer, Chelsea, Chloe, Amanda, Caitlin, Corey, Brad, Scott, Gallagher, Dan Hall, Coza, Amy, Sami, Hayley, and Xan White even returned. Reid had every inch of the lodge, barn, fenceposts, and Healing Feather/R&R twinkling merrily. We did the frosty activities – tubing, skating and snow-football, plus the cozy lodge slumber-party stuff: cookies, candles, cocoa, cards, and clench-a-wench! Our singing was lame, but the Banjo Man helped it sound pretty good! John Barker was the quintessential square-dance caller.

Anyway, Santa, just wanted to send you a high-five for such a fun winter gift. Hope my stocking next year has another workshop enrollment for 2009!

Love, Cindy-Lou-Who
(*"who lives in Cabin 2"*)

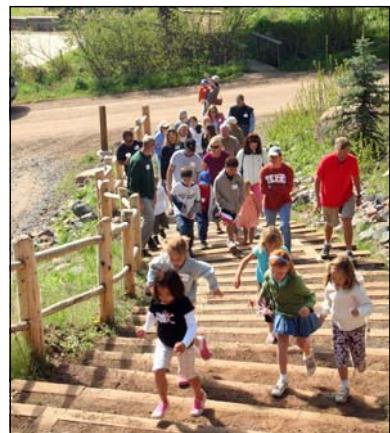


Attention First-Time Campers!

Geneva Glen's Strawberry Pancake Breakfast!!

You're invited to our version of an "Open House" (Sat., May 23, 8:30-10:30)

Mark the Date: Saturday, May 23rd between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. for Geneva Glen's annual Strawberry Pancake Breakfast! Families new to Geneva Glen are warmly welcomed to a breakfast open house (come any time between 8:30 and 10:30), which includes tours of the camp by members of the camp's Board of Directors. Meet the directors, Ken and Nancy Atkinson, and other members of the staff. This is a great way to see where your children will be and for them to get a flavor of the camp, while possibly meeting some bunkmates as well! Consider this an invitation, to join us on this fun day!



Any questions at all – PLEASE REPLY by email (kathyt@genevaglen.org) or phone (303-697-4621, ext 13) if you are coming, so we know how many pounds of bacon to fry! See you soon!

PS – If you're a first-year camper and a teenager, you're welcome as well, but keep in mind that this breakfast usually fills with "junior" campers, as most of our first-time families have children 6-9 years old. Don't be dismayed at the flocks of little kids (most of our teenage campers already are acquainted with camp).



COMING SOON

28 Former Campers Join the
Staff Adventure for the
First Time This Summer.



10th Annual National Geneva Glen Day

June 1, 2009, is National Geneva Glen Day. June is a time when camp comes to life and many of us (campers, parents and alumni) find our thoughts turning to the upcoming camp season. We hope you will join in this celebration of GG (and 88 wonderful years of outstanding camp experiences) by wearing anything and everything you have with the GG name or logo on June 1. Over the past seven years of encouraging the entire GG Camp Family to wear their GG sportswear on this one particular day, hundreds of people have found GG connections they never knew existed. So, wear your GG hats, shirts, pins, whatever on June 1. Then, send us an email (pete@genevaglen.org) showing you in your GG gear and tell us about any serendipitous GG encounters!

HELPFUL HINTS AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS!

Here's a handy list of some of the basic things to keep track of. ... Hope this helps, and see you soon!

1. **HEALTH FORM** (cream colored) was mailed to you in February, if you were enrolled. If you need the form, you can access it online via the parents link on the GG website (www.genevaglen.org).

Doctors physical exam – just what IS required? A physical exam is required for admission and the exam must be current within 24 months of attendance. A physical exam does not need to be conducted by a licensed physician, but the exam form MUST be signed by “Licensed Medical Personnel” (MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant), every year. The physician exam form is on page 4 of the camp’s **health form** and can be submitted separately from the rest of the health form. Contact us if you need more information. Mail the form to camp well ahead of your arrival — we suggest a minimum of four weeks but preferably by May 1 (unless there is medical information that you need to discuss with our nurse and camp physician). All medications will be checked through our nurse on Check-In Sunday. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING VITAMINS AND HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS.** Health information must be current, and the health form must be at camp (either mailed or brought with you) before/ON the day of enrollment or we *will not be able to enroll your child!* Go to the Parent Resources link on the camp’s web site to access downloads of our policies, and the health form itself: <http://www.genevaglen.org/general/healthservices.php>.

2. **TUITION PAYMENT** — We ask for the balance of tuition by **MONDAY, MAY 11**. Call us if this presents a problem. A statement of your account is included in this mailing.

3. **CHECK-IN SUNDAY** — Big, exciting day! You should come straight up to the GG lodge *before* moving your luggage. At Step-1, you will get the Camper Release Form that you need to sign and give to the counselor (Step-3). The Release Form tells us who will pick up the camper on Check-Out Saturday. At Step-2 of the check-in process, you will have the chance to visit with our camp doctor and nurse (and clarify any concerns).

Myths and Magic
Check-In: 10:30—noon; Mon., June 15
Check-Out: 3:30—5:00; Fri., June 19

Start time: The time to come is **2:00 p.m. or after**, until 4:00 p.m. We won’t be able to register anyone until 2:00 p.m., so **PLEASE DO NOT COME ANY EARLIER THAN 2:00** on Sunday. If you come at 3:00, you will have **no wait** in the Check-In lines.

 **BUNK BEDS WILL BE PICKED BY A “LOTTERY”** with the counselors in the cabins (getting here early is no advantage!)

4. **CHECK-OUT SATURDAY**— Check-Out times are from 10:00 a.m.— noon on Saturday. Please remember on Check-Out days that parents must sign the **Release Form** (counselors will have these forms, which we need to have signed before releasing your camper). Go to the Check-Out only if you need to get meds or to check the lost-and-found (*note that there no longer are camper store charges due at Check-Out*).

What to pack? Here's the checklist from your Parent Handbook:

- Swimsuit / towels (3 towels)
- Flashlight
- Warm jacket and rain jacket or poncho
- Warm sleeping bag for bunk and overnights
- Toiletry articles (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, comb/hairbrush, washcloth, etc.)
- Sturdy shoes, for hiking and horseback riding
(GG barn policies require having hard-sole shoes with a heel for horseback riding; sturdy hiking boots are sufficient)



- Shorts / summer clothing
- Camera (inexpensive/disposable) with camper’s name on it
- One dressy outfit for Sunday services and dances
- A twin-bed fitted sheet and a pillow

Important Note to Parents

Parents are reminded that we **discourage sending expensive items** to camp (iPods/MP3s and other portable electronics) as they easily can become lost and Geneva Glen cannot accept responsibility for lost items. **Cell phones are not allowed.** We will hold out-of-state camper cell phones in the safe. Our policies **prohibit any drugs**, or any kind of **medication not checked in** with our camp nurse. Other items not allowed include **tobacco** of any kind, **alcohol**, **fireworks**, **matches**, **lighters**, personal **sports equipment**, **gum**, personal **safety gear** (helmets), **vehicles** (boards, bikes, scooters) and **weapons** of any variety. Finally, to help reduce lost-and-found mysteries ...

BE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE INSIDE OF ALL YOUR CLOTHING! - AND ON EVERYTHING!!

Thanks for your cooperation.

Our camp has been providing a fun, positive camping experience for children for 88 years. It remains our expectation that you have a fantastic summer at Geneva Glen ... and we know you will.

See you soon !!!

HARVEST OF VINTAGE STAFF GARDEN

With the coming of spring, we start thinking about the growing season and planting new things. The staff garden this year has many camper "seeds" sprouting into glorious bloom! Most camp directors feel that growing your own staff is generally a healthy, productive method of guaranteeing a great summer. These folks all share GG values, are familiar with the songs, traditions, and rules – and they know all the tricks campers try to pull, because they pulled them themselves! Below are the names of all or our veterans – past campers and past staff – who are returning for another "growing season."

So let's translate the many varieties of plants into fragrant counselor flowers for the 2009 summer.

We'll start with our beautiful – but durable – program director **Lisa Walton** is a noble, tawny TIGER LILY. Yet, no garden at GG could be without our wildflowers ... how about a sturdy variety of the *PINK ELEPHANTHEADS* – that's right, our heads of hill **Chelsea Williamson** and **John Stanesco**. FAIRY TRUMPETS are our trainee heads tooting out a familiar stanza for **Ben Horne** and **Amanda Lewis**, and those nasty *NASTURTIUMS* are **Coza Perry** and **Corey Dickter**, as the beacons for our bouquet of CITs.

Near the Chapel you'll find a fragrant wafting bunch of *SWEETPEAS*, that's **Lainey Tick**, **Elena Fullerton** and **Cody Lubchenco**. There's also a cascade of *HONEYSUCKLES* with **Piper Rastello**, **Gabi Landau**, **Claire McKeever** and **Sarah Propeck**. The garden's shady edge harbors our *NIGHTSHADE* cousins, **Dan Hall** and **Evan Hall**.

CLEMATIS is that lovely vine that twines around trees ... that's **Alex Eurich** heading up the GG ropes course. Always growing near ropes are yummy *WILD ONIONS* **Tommy Hurrell** and **D.B. Mares**, and a noisy patch of high-elevation *BUFFALO CLOVER*, **Pete Mahan**. We need a few of daffy *DAFFODILS* for comic relief, **Taylor Hinds**, **Kevin Beall**, **David Snodgrass**,



GOT DONATIONS?

This is our current "WISH LIST" of things that camp could use:



Remember:
donations to
Geneva Glen are
tax-deductible.

- Wigs, HATS and shoes for the costume room ... adult-size costumes, uniforms, bandanas and costume jewelry
- Wind chimes, bird feeders, etc. ... flags, banners, bunting, party decorations, etc.
- Cameras and video-cameras
- Sports equipment, camping gear (tents, sleeping bags, cooking stoves)
- Sample-size shampoos, toothpaste and soaps (for kids who forget)
- Crafts items (leather, beads, stained glass, tools, etc.)
- Working chainsaws, tools, hardware, ropes, tarps, extension cords, tool bags, etc.

We appreciate the items many of you have left on the GG doorstep ... sorry if we failed to recognize these gifts (especially if they come in the summer).

Chris Linsmayer and **Chris Gallagher**. At the north end of the silven glade reside some lithesome *LADY SLIPPERS* — **Caitlin Goettel**, **Rachel Frank**, **Paige Pahlke** and **Angela Louise** (Breitholtz). Down at the pool, you'll find our two lovely damp *WATER LILLIES*, **Aryn O'Donnell** and **Nathan Godsman**. Hiding amid some aspens on Girls Hill we'll find our perky, *PEARLBERRIES*, **Heidi TenPas** and **Alana Wilson**.

That pungent smell of *HORSEMINT* steams up near the barn with **Courtney Clarke**, **Sami Hartman** and **Tom Odenheimer**. The rare *BEARDED HOOK* is none other than GG's pirate **Max Dickter**. Down by the brook grow some secretive *TWIN FLOWERS* – gotta be **Scott** and **Davis Wert**. Hanging out with the SHOOTING STARS are **Elliot Smith**, **Lizzy Shay**, **Jeremy Parsons**, **McKenzie Worley**, **Jordan Cohen**, **Charlotte Crawford**, **Andre Landau** and **Will Marlin**.

The next plot is our kitchen-herb garden: fragrant *MINT* (**Mary**, **Connie** and **Crystal**), pungent *ROSEMARY* (**Joy**, **Barb** and **Anita**) and spicy *CILANTRO* from Mexico, **Nina**.

And close by, for a rare treat, we love to find the *WILD STRAWBERRIES* **Xan White** and that innocent, yet malevolent, **Brad Sheehan** as the *VENUS FLYTRAP*. Tucked near the Alchemy Hut, we find tiny *SPRING BEAUTIES* such as **Chloe Lambert** and a happy surprise: a *SNOWBALL SAXIFRAGE* **Annie Beall**. The *ALOE VERA* (the healing plant) is of course **Randy Howell**, our returning R.N. form last summer, and who couldn't use potatoes in any gar-

den, like **Jared Strickland**, our maintenance spud!

Our glorious terrace would not be complete without resident *MORNING GLORY*, that shining smile of **Christa Diederichs** along side her leafy pal, *TIGER VIOLET* **Kathy Thornton**, gentle on the outside, but brandishing claws when needed on check-in Sunday! Now our spore-bearing fruity bodied *PUFFBALL MUSHROOM*, **Pete LaFleur**, and that lovable, cantankerous *SNAPDRAGON*, **Reid McKnight** both will be wearing crinoline costumes for a very Nancy-styled special production!

The patient gardeners, of course, are **Ken** and **Nancy** – always grateful that camp provides just the right sunshine, moisture, and fertilizer, to keep crazy flora and fauna blooming nicely.

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A Message to GG Newcomers ... *From the Directors:*

Dear First-Year Campers,



We hope this newsletter finds you and your parents ready and excited about this coming season. If this will be your first time at the Glen, WELCOME!! Let us introduce ourselves. We are Ken and Nancy Atkinson, the directors of Geneva Glen. We both were campers and counselors at GG, in addition to being parents of three former campers (and, now, grandparents to several current campers!). We love this place very much and are excited to share its magic with you.

Here's a few hints for having the best time at camp

Try to get plenty of sleep the night before you come to camp. You may be too excited to sleep and, if so, don't worry about it, you'll sleep well at camp!

Bring old, comfortable clothing. You'll only need one nicer outfit for Sunday, and you may want to bring something unique and crazy for the dance.

Instead of packing all your "gadgets," bring your imagination! We try to leave the hi-tech, fast-paced world for a couple weeks and enjoy a different kind of entertainment here at camp. Along those lines, the familiar way of writing by e-mail is traded for good old-fashioned letters and post cards! So bring stamped envelopes/postcards with your home address (also feel free to bring a family photo to stick up in your trunk).

Let us introduce to you our favorite place at camp, our wonderful **Council Ring**. Most camps have a "center" of activity such as a campfire area where songs are sung, skits are created and camp legends are spun! At Geneva Glen, this is our treasured Council Ring, the "heart" of camp. This theater-in-the-round holds 300 folks comfortably on bleachers and logs, set about the sacred fire pit! Daily, we tromp across the bridge to hear stories, announcements of activities, goofy songs, and corn-ball antics of leaders who invite teens to join them on a wilderness adventure, or to persuade middlers into helping them write a radio program for our own station "KGLN."

At the end of **American Heritage**, we gather in the Council Ring for Pow Wow, a ceremonial performance of various dances, games, songs and rituals that follow the traditions of native tribe we seek to emulate. The fire, of course, is the center of the program — it's where the death poems from the Funeral Dance are chanted and where the sacred eagle feathers for the Snake Dance are burned.

During **Knighthood**, the Council Ring is a traditional "royal" enclave for knighting, stories of valor, and dances of magic swords.

Often during the **World Friendship** session, musicals are presented in the Council Ring. Peter Pan is lifted in flight or munchkins prance down the Yellow Brick Road in the Wizard of Oz. The Council Ring also is the center of ethnic legends and

dramas of various cultures we learn about during this session. At the start of the summer, during **Myths and Magic**, the Council Ring is a big-top brimming with color, balloons, twinkle lights, popcorn and cotton candy. This is where the strong men attempt feats of incredible lifting, mermaids sing siren songs, tiny acrobats flit across imaginary high wires, and clowns, seals, and dancing bears make us laugh at ourselves.

The Council Ring is the most important on Sunday evenings, when we faithfully bring back old campfire favorites of the past 88 years. Somehow, the chants and harmonies of these familiar songs passed down to the current generation is like a "silver cord that binds." Some are silly, typical songs, like *Baby Bumble Bee*, or *Choo Choo Cha*. Others, such as *Peace I Ask of Thee O-River*, and *Home on the Range*, are traditional to many camps. Some are great spirituals, like *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, but the closing fellowship circle at GG always includes "We're on the Upward Trail" . . . "Geneva, We Love You. Your wonderful fragrance of pine" . . . and "Day is Done" (taps). These melodies, sung in swaying shadows around the fire, provide a connection to GG's wonderful past, and they create a warm memory to last a lifetime.

Bring your expectations to meet wonderful new friends, sing silly songs, create a slapstick skit, be really busy, or to just kick back and relax. AND always be yourself in a wonderful outdoor atmosphere of fellowship and fun!

For camper veterans, this *Glen Breeze* is part of the GG tradition, with articles like "On the Dog Beat" and the Garden of Trainees. We also can congregate as a camp family in the online social networking site designed for Geneva Glen, which also is known as "The Council Ring" (linked via genevaglen.org). This site was launched in 2007 and several hundred GG campers, staff and alums now are talking it up in there! Feel free to wander around in there and introduce yourself!

Whether you're one of our 10-year veterans or a brand-new, first-timer, we treasure this fellowship at the Glen and look forward to our summer together.

Nancy & Ken

DRAGONOLOGY ...

Junior campers stay alert! In the summer of 2008, our expert dragonologists — infamous brothers Corey and Max Dickter — began a worthy search for telltale signs of "Knuckers," "Frostchicks" and "Ridgeback" dragons. Max and Corey are acclaimed specialists in Celtic legends and found a rich trove of dragon runes at GG.



The clues led us to lairs up near Wood Lilly Vale. The tracks and scat allowed us to wonder about our scaled, firebreathing pals. When you come to camp, be ready to search for dragon clues —such as golden tears, Ridgeback eggs, scorch marks on trees and yucky green Knucker scat.