

# Geneva Glen Breeze



CAMPER EDITION ... SPRING 2011



*From the Directors:*

**Dear Camper Parents** — Camp is about to —~~w~~arp-up” again and we look forward to this eager amalgamation of veteran staff / green first-timers / wizards / chiefs / petty dictators / princesses / ogres / elves / knights / pirates / and dragon hunters inspiring growth and imaginative journeys for your child. If this is your first venture to the Glen, we hope to welcome you in the highest hospitable manner. If you are a long-time Geneva Glen veteran with decades under your belt, we hope each sojourn to your GG camp home is rich and ennobling.

One of the most repeated phrases we hear from parents during the off-season is —~~h~~on’t know what you do up there, but my kid just *adores* your camp!” Some campers chatter incessantly about their camp experiences, others are more vague! For many parents, it can be mystifying and very often your camper won’t quite know how to articulate it — here are some hints that might help you to unlock the mystery:

**Geneva Glen presents a total environment that’s naturally very “kid-friendly” ... Here’s things every camper gets, and some fundamental aspects of this environment:**

## **Being true to self (no “masks”)**

**IN THE —REAL WORLD** — There’s an expectancy to —~~f~~it in,” and conform to others’ rules and fashion ... personal appearance and popularity are highly valued

**AT CAMP** — You’re respected & celebrated for your own individuality and allowed your own self-expression ... GG is 90 years old and in great demand: it transcends fashion!

## **Appreciation of the natural world**

**IN THE —REAL WORLD** — The wonders of nature are rarely experienced and largely go unappreciated ... more and more, nature is observed —~~u~~nder glass”

**AT CAMP** — Nature is at the center of most of the camp programs, taking advantage of a healthy and sizeable atmosphere that still remains unspoiled and balanced

## **Simple kindness, respect and acceptance**

**IN THE —REAL WORLD** — Kindness is unrewarded and undervalued, acceptance must be —~~e~~arned,” respect has a price and is often temporary

**AT CAMP** — Children experience a culture that allows them to be exactly who they are ... campers get to be free from their own —~~h~~istory” and prove themselves by actions (not by zip code or popular achievements)

## **Unstructured play**

**IN THE —REAL WORLD** — In the U.S., school-age children spend an average of four minutes per day in unstructured play, and eight hours per day in front of a screen ... organized sports is mistaken for —~~p~~lay”

**AT CAMP** — Campers follow a structured program but still are afforded generous daily intervals to just —~~h~~ang-out” and have fun playing self-organized sports activities or self-run games (i.e. playing in the streambed or pretending in the fairy garden)

## **Competition/Sportsmanship**

**IN THE —REAL WORLD** — Sportsmanship is superseded by intense competition to win and —~~e~~at” the other team

**AT CAMP** — Sportsmanship is highly valued; an elevated meaning of competition is stressed, where the competitor is a partner in helping challenge self-perceived limits

## **Safe place to be oneself**

**IN THE —REAL WORLD** — Children are taught to shelter themselves from strangers, to stay within a shrinking envelope of safety, and to engage in relationships with caution

**AT CAMP**—GG is —~~h~~igh-touch” environment; the culture & atmosphere provide shelter of close supervision without being intrusive, allowing trust to grow & risks to be safe





# Geneva Glen



Since 1922

(Ken & Nancy letter; cont. from p. 1)

After reviewing those categories listed on the front page, it's no wonder that it may be hard to get an —articulate” sense of what goes on at camp! Sometimes this can take years before the camper can understand it ... but we understand it, and promote it, and enlarge it as we add former campers who have now become leaders and are eager to transmit the values of camp and share their experiences with the next generation to come. ...

Our national camp conference (ACA) was chock-full of research and information about —Children and Play.” The latest is a resounding clarion cry for —let kids have free play ... preferably outside!” Current research shows that outdoor play answers a myriad of childhood challenges, such as: heightened incidents of depression, increase in stress and anxieties, impacts loss of connection to nature, attributes to the increase in childhood obesity, and many others.

The resultant advice for camp professionals is to allow our campers —free play” — fort-building, tree-climbing, exploring, pretending ... these have been valued activities at GG for decades, and we are honored that so many so-called new paradigms in childhood development already are stalwart foundations in play at Geneva Glen.

We know that this has been a long, hard winter; and most of the places that our campers hail from have felt the brunt of this past season (except for Sophia Hill in Hawaii, and maybe Gemma Gallinaro in Italy)! The bitter cold and snow that pounded Texas (and even Georgia) closed schools



nationwide, and made us quite appreciative of every shining sun ray that broke through the gray clouds. We hope you're all excited about this coming summer. We know all the counselors are doing that great GG countdown that includes anticipation of renewing friendships with past camp pals, as well as welcoming first-timers to the Glen. Here, 90-year traditions flourish and we anxiously await the summer constellations that harbor the beginning of the summer of 2011. See you then!

*Nancy & Ken*

## GENEVA GLEN 2011 TRAINEE GARDEN





**On-The-Dog-Beat** — *Canine Columnist: Huckleberry*

**Howdy Camp Pals!**

Here's a warm spring tail-wagging from your pal Huckleberry. I'm reportin' on the GG scene, here in the middle of muddy March.

I see Tucker in Reid's office and we compare dog smells. Tucker has a richer-vintage aroma than my short-hair allows. According to Tucker, Rosie and Ginger will foal again in the spring – so our baby ring will be full again with cute mares about the time that camp opens. That definitely is the most popular spot in camp for middler girls, once the fillies and colts show up.

The barn is winter home for Thunder, who didn't join his pony peers at pasture. He's one of my favorite broncs, because he doesn't nip at me if I get close to his horsey, hammy haunches. Every day, Ken and Nancy stop by to give him an apple, carrots or horse-cookies and he's so glad for the company as he prances about. Courtney and Reid even got him his own jacket, so he wouldn't be quite so cold in the dark, frigid nights.



Since we were bare-bones for snow in December, Ken had a dozer scoop out a chunk 40-by-25 feet for our first-ever "diamond-tiara-ice rink." This satisfied our gang of teens for our traditional Winter Workshop hullabaloo. The rink sat right where our softball home plate used to be and when the sun peeked out from behind Mt. Geneva, things got mushy. It was a slidy-glidly attraction for curling and broomball, with a bit of real skating on the side. In the summer, we will convert



*This eclectic snowman — made at "The Xhopper" — was more mud and sand than frosty stuff.*

it back into a softball diamond – right after Mudpie Mania in Myths.

We have a pair of geese, who have been hanging out by the pond made by the melting ice. It's a pretty murky haven now, but they waddle out to the dark opening and presumably find some luscious tidbits in the ooze. Pete named them Goosey and Lucy. I love to chase them when I'm not sleeping on Ken's couch.



The rifle range is topsy-turvy, as they rebuild the canopy. Trees are being sprayed for pine-beetles and a bunch of spruce and fir (by the Nature Center) have been thinned out. A wider trail has been cut out to get to the trees, which will be good for trail rides up that way. A large gray owl has been harassing field mice — Nancy loves this guy and hopes we have a family of owls for the campers to see this summer.

Hey Dorm F guys – get excited about your new bunks! Jared, Tommy O. and Corey have built 16 log beds to renovate that frowsy flophouse you guys live in. It really looks good ... so, now, you will get 100% on inspection every day, right?

Well guys, it's getting really quiet around here, so hurry up and return to the Glen with all your singin', shoutin' and laughin'. It just seems more like camp when you're all here.

Your best doggy pal,  
Huck



*P.S.— We just found our favorite bumper-sticker quote:*

**"More Wags, Less Bark"**

# 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** (yellow 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](http://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 (before signing off on the GG Health Form, many licensed medical personnel may require an exam within the past 12 months). A physical exam does not need to be conducted by a licensed physician, but the exam form **MUST** be signed EVERY YEAR by —icensed Medical Personnel” (MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant). 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 by May 1. 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 **by MAY 1!** Go to the Parent Resources link on the camp’s website 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 MAY 5. Please call us if this presents any problems. A statement of your account is included in this mailing.

3. **CHECK-IN SUNDAY** (2-week sessions) — 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 heads-of-hill (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 (now located at the GG Health Center), you will have the chance to visit with our camp doctor and nurse (and drop off your medications, clarify any concerns, etc.). Some families can skip Step-2.

**Myths and Magic**  
**Check-In: 10:30 – noon; Mon., June 13**  
**Check-Out: 3:30 – 5:00; Fri., June 17**

**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. to noon. Please remember that parents must sign the **Release Form** (counselors will have these forms, which we need to have signed before releasing your camper). Your medications can be picked up at the top of the meadow (where you also can peruse lost-and-found, at nearby Bears Corner. Some families will have a yellow card attached to the release form indicating that a miscellaneous charge is due and can be paid at the Sportswear window (bottom of the lodge).

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit / towels (3 towels)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts / summer clothing                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight (optional; be sure to include camper’s name)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera (optional); inexpensive/disposable (w/ camper’s name) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket and rain jacket or poncho  | <input type="checkbox"/> One dressy outfit for Sunday Vespers and dances              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm sleeping bag for bunk and overnights  | <input type="checkbox"/> A twin-bed fitted sheet and a pillow                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletry articles (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, comb/hairbrush, washcloth, etc.)   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy shoes, for hiking and horseback riding<br><i>(GG barn policies require having hard-sole shoes with a heel for horseback riding; sturdy hiking boots are sufficient)</i> |   |



**BE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE INSIDE OF ALL CLOTHING!**

**... AND ON EVERYTHING !!!**

*Our camp has been providing a fun, positive camping experience for children for 90 years. It remains our expectation that you have a fantastic summer at Geneva Glen ... and we know you will.*

**See you soon !!!**

## **Important Note to Parents**

Parents are reminded that we **discourage sending expensive items** to camp (iPods/iphones/MP3s, 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.*



# STAFF STEW "AVIARY"

A majestic eagle will be the theme symbol of our 2011 summer – so how about the staff aviary for our stewpot of returning counselors? At 7,500 feet, camp has 25 regular bird-species visitors, but crazy antics of our staff frequently show similarities to all sorts of winged creatures, such as ...

**Coza Perry** as the queen *trumpeter swan* will head Girls Hill, with *wild turkey* **Dan Hall** as head of Boys Hill. ... **Pete Mahan** – *phoenix* of GG – rises from the ashes every summer to reveal a whimsical program for the camp. ... We always relish that bright flash of azure when mountain *bluebirds* arrive: **Jessi Garhart** (running ropes), **Cassidy Robison** (co-running crafts) & **Elyse Schultz** (leading Vespers). Mythical *winged unicorns* are “bany babes” **Courtney McKnight**, **Alana Wilson** & **Emily Jacobs**. **Meg Nakajima** happily returns as our camp nurse and she could be the favored, ruffled *peacock* hovering over the R&R.

Those impertinent *crows* **Ben Lederer**, **Asher Hussain**, **Spencer Curtiss** and **Jake Gulliver** create such havoc in the Council Ring. **London McElvaine** is perfect as that mysterious *whipoor-will*, running alchemy. ... **Aviva Sonenreich**, as rifles head, could be our favorite *woodpecker*, the *red-shafted flicker* boring holes in trees. ... Watching over the water is the constant *belted-kingfisher* **Henry Hoyt**, who will head up pool – sharing that duty with **Cody Lubhenco** as a spritely water nymph. Camp needs pollinators and ours come in a flurry of tiny *Rufus hummingbirds* – **Emma Saisa**, **Grace Michaels**, **Meg Meagher** and **Emma Thompson**. We need a kettle of *turkey vultures* portrayed by **Jeremy Parsons**, **Naveed Easton** and **DB Mares**. There's a core group of squawking *maggies*: **Chelsea Ammons**, **Megan Geraets** and **Lauren Goettge**.

The soothing sound of *turtle doves* could be **Hallie Spoor**, **Abby Eurich** & **Paige Pahlke**. Tiny *tit-mouse* **Jess**

**Laub** and *ring-necked pheasant* partner **Tommy Hurrell** will guide the CITs. Parental *snow geese* **Scott Wert** and **Lainey Tick** head the trainees, keeping the brood under their chimerical wings and always flying in formation. Heading shields is symbol of heraldry, the *Griffin*, **Jordan Cohen** – with head of an eagle and body of a lion (he's used to these symbols, as our Hogwarts geek!). We welcome back five returning staff from long migrations – *striated sapsuckers* **Steven Mares**, **Melissa Karsh**, **Jason Laub**, **Melissa Inskip-Mueller** & **Max Muller**. ... **Max Dickter's** magic as special events coordinator means he's our *merlin*, a small clever hawk, a.k.a. **Merlinus Ambrosius**.

You've no doubt noticed our crew among the penguin “waddle” below, but note that the *emperor penguin* is **Davis Wert**, overseeing facilities at the Glen – with the immediate Crew papa coming from the New Mexico dragon species, the *stealth-winged, low-rumped, dragtail* **Corey Dickter** ... One of our favorite local residents are *red-railed hawks* (who keep rodents in check): **Sam Robison**, **Adam Saucedo**, **Nate Ariki**, **Matt Ayres**, **Austin Lee** and **Erol Cromwell**.

The kitchen rookery includes all the tasty fowl: *shy quail*, *daffy ducks*, *game hens*, *plump partridges* and *spring chickens* – in disguise as **Anita Boucher**, **Connie Blanchaert**, **Joyce Overholt**, **Alana Gay**, **Nina**, **Crystal Turner**, **Mary McCaskey** and **Melissa Shipley**.

Our *mother hen* undoubtedly is **Christa Diederichs Redford**, nurturing every camper and staff member under downy wings (she's on the nest herself, with a chick due in November!). **Pete** “the parrot” **LaFleur** is our oral-history sage. Parrots have a long life and astounding memory (they're known to “rePete” things). **Kathy Thornton** – helping round up dollar bills for great GG development projects – would be the outstretched *bald eagle*. Topping off the aviary is protective *night falcon*, **Reid McKnight!**

GG's “Waddle” of Penguins in Indian Hills



Each year Geneva Glen “grows” its own counselors & crew (usually 90% of our staff come from the former camper ranks). Check out our latest batch of first-time staff who are former campers (above).

## 90 YEARS OF “SEEDING THE FUTURE”

... has created a tradition of meaningful camping memories at Geneva Glen. In 2011, some 950 campers will join us around our renowned council fire for songs, legends, skits, and dances. They will be continuing a decades-long legacy that many of their parents, grandparents and other family members have enjoyed. **One-third of our campers are GG progeny** – some going back for five generations!



We are honored to celebrate these nine decades of exceptional camping with so many children of our own former staff members, as well as the grandchildren and great-grand-children of people who were Ken and Nancy’s co-leaders or their own

counselors when they were campers in the 50s and 60s. Yes, the stories of “back in the day” abound at GG!. Some of these stories are hysterically comical, others are poignant, scary, and unbelievable! Even our 2011 staff illuminates this tradition as 27 (out of 95) are GG progeny.

**NEXT September, 2012**, we will commemorate our anniversary with Family Camp over Labor Day weekend (Aug. 31 thru Sept. 3, 2012). Families may join us for hikes, picnics, horseback rides, campfire singing, and many camp activities dripping with nostalgia. Keep that date in mind, as the past GG birthday celebrations have been gloriously fun!



*The candlelight ceremony shown above is held the last night of World Friendship. Grateful commendations pour forth as campers reflect on meaningful friendships, joyful moments and lessons learned at the Glen ... (left) Council Ring antics, as GG progeny Drew Schulte teaches us the “Shake Your Pinky” song ... (below) After 90 seasons of boys, sticks and hand-made boats, the streambed remains our most impassioned playground.*



### ***Attention First-Time Campers!***

#### **GG’s Strawberry Pancake Breakfast!!**

You’re invited to our version of an “Open House”

(Saturday, May 21; 8:30-10:30)

**Mark the Date:** Sat. May 21 between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. for GG’s annual Strawberry Pancake Breakfast! Families new to GG are warmly welcomed to a breakfast open-house that includes guided tours of the camp. This is a great way for parents to see where your children will be situated and for the kids to get a flavor of the camp. If you are planning to attend, **PLEASE REPLY** by email ([christa@genevaglen.org](mailto:christa@genevaglen.org)) or phone (303-697-4621, ext 25), so we know how much vittles to prepare!

## **Raffle Winner**

Great surprise for **Tyler McFarland**, as the Winter Workshop Snow Queen picked his raffle ticket out of the punchbowl. Tyler is a first-year camper, though his family has come for three years. He’s an 8th-grader from the Denver area and chose Knighthood II as his session. Thanks as always to those who took their chance on the raffle — it continues to be a big fundraising success, with proceeds helping fund Geneva Glen scholarships for approximately three campers in the summer of 2011.

