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**Family Camp
 September 3-6, 2010**

GRP Reunions are being planned - visit our website for future dates - greenriverpreserve.org

**REGISTER now for
 GRP in 2010!**

Base Camp Session 1	June 5-June 11	Grades 3-6
Base Camp Session 2	June 13-June 25	Grades 5-8
Base Camp Session 3	June 27-July 16	Grades 6-9
Base Camp Session 4	June 27-July 9	Grades 5-8
Base Camp Session 5 (mini)	July 11-July 15	Grades 2-4
Base Camp Session 6	July 19-July 31	Grades 5-8
Base Camp Session 7	Aug 2-Aug 8	Grades 3-6
Family Camp	Sept 3-Sept 6	All ages

Expeditions

Blue Ridge 1	June 13-June 25	9-12
Blue Ridge 2	June 29-July 16	10-12
Blue Ridge 3	July 19-July 31	9-12
Outer Banks 1	June 13-June 26	9-12
Outer Banks 2	July 6-July 19	9-12
Outer Banks 3	July 25-Aug 7	9-12



Whispers from the Preserve



Green River Preserve

Fall 2009

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The season of Jack-O-Lanterns is upon us. Yesterday, I bought a pumpkin. I couldn't help it. They were at the local farmer's market in abundance and assorted colors. Standard pumpkin orange is still my choice.

In the Green River Valley the term of Jack-O-Lanterns means something quite different than a carved out pumpkin. As legend has it, Jack-O-Lanterns are mysterious balls of light that randomly appear floating in the air. Sometimes they appear singly and sometimes many at a time.

Alfred Heatherly served as a caretaker and farmer at GRP from the time Sandy was a young man until his death a few years ago. Alfred grew up on the Green River Preserve in a one room cabin near the original growth hemlocks. He told us tales of Jack-O-Lanterns that would keep you on the edge of your chair!



Once, Alfred was coming home to his cabin through the woods. He misjudged his timing and the sun began to go down. As the darkness settled in, Alfred approached a "Rhododendron Hell" and could not find his way through the thicket. Out of nowhere, this large ball of light appeared. It had a sort of dancing, vibrating movement and seemed to signal, follow me. Alfred said he was surprised by the light, but he was never scared. Something told him he should follow it. Sure enough, this mysterious light led him through the thicket and then it rose up and disappeared as quickly as it had appeared.

Through time and progress, the sightings of Jack-O-Lanterns became fewer and fewer. Mrs. Cox (wife of one of GRP's early caretakers) said the mountain folks blamed it on electricity coming to the valley.

This past summer, campers saw mysterious balls of light on a campout. Upon their return to base camp, one of them asked me about it. My immediate reaction was it had to be Jack-O-Lanterns. I shared my limited Jack-O-Lantern knowledge with them; envious that I was not on the campout. A Jack-O-Lantern sighting right here in this valley... perhaps it has something to do with preservation of land! What do you think?

-Missy Schenck

Nature's Positive Impact on Children

The American Institutes for Research carried out a study of the impact of week-long residential outdoor education on at-risk youth. The findings were significant which included: "27% increase in measured mastery of science concepts; enhanced cooperation and conflict resolution skills; gains in self-esteem; gains in positive environmental behavior; and gains in problem-solving, motivation to learn, and classroom behavior."

Join the Annual Fund's Leaf Society

In 2009, over \$50,000 in scholarships was awarded to deserving young campers. This is a significant commitment for such a small non-profit as Green River. If you would like to help with our scholarship effort, please consider joining our Leaf Society by making a contribution to the Annual Fund. This fund supports the mission of the Green River Preserve and offers help to campers who need financial assistance. Last year, 29 families and individuals became members of the Leaf Society by making annual fund contributions. We hope you will join these thoughtful families in the coming months. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children.



The Green River Preserve
 301 Green River Rd
 Cedar Mountain, NC 28718



Chatter from the trees... Buzzin' with the bees...



Camp is an excellent investment! Read more about how GRP has influenced the lives of its campers and staff...

Katie Vogel, former GRP camper and current mentor (Session 5 in 2008 and 2009) – does amazing things in her day job, she might blow up a fake volcano, build a bear track out of goo, cut up an owl pellet and sink a fleet of aluminum foil boats. Katie created the program Healing and Hope Through Science that provides hands-on science classes to sick children in UNC and Duke hospitals. She credits her summers at GRP as being formative in her development – her enthusiasm for children and teaching natural science is amazing. She was featured in the *News and Observer* on October 11, 2009 in the article ‘Crazy Katie’ has a mission in her madness - www.newsobserver.com. The organization’s website (www.healingand-hopethroughscience.org) explains more about how the program was created and is funded. This is just one example of the creativity, passion, and commitment that makes GRP campers and staff so special! **Keep up the good work Katie!**

Drew Henderson, a Spartanburg High School graduate and currently a freshman at Yale University, was selected as a Presidential Scholar earlier this year. Other accomplishments include involvement in student government (student vice president during senior year) and earning a perfect 2400 on the SAT. He had been a camper for several years at GRP and joined the staff this past summer as a co-counselor.

Michelle Grim and **Phil Pearce** met at the GRP during the summer of 2007. Phil had been a staff member off and on since 2001 but it was Michelle’s first time at the Preserve. In January of 2009, Phil asked Michelle to marry him and they tied the knot on August 30, 2009. Most of the wedding party were former or current GRP staff, and Sandy Schenck performed the ceremony. After a week long honeymoon to the beach, they returned to camp so Michelle could finish the Fall School Program season. In October they moved to Raleigh, NC.

Building Hope Through Intimacy with Nature

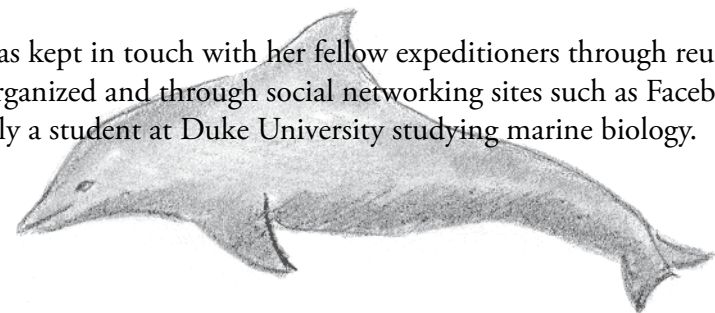
The American Camp Association has identified three “Pillars of Hope” that are achieved in quality camp-related youth development programs: intimacy with nature, authentic human connections, and human-powered activities.

The Green River Preserve was featured in the July/August issue of *Camping Magazine* as an example of a program that creates intimacy with nature – connecting children with much more than the name of a plant or animal but with a community and a different pace found in the natural world. During morning mentor hikes campers might be catching crayfish below Emerald Falls, searching for tracks near Upper Bald, or tasting Sourwood in the Hemlock Field.

Kirsten Moy, a past OBX expeditioner, writes about her most influential experience...

My three summers with the Green River Preserve’s Outer Banks Expeditions are among the greatest and most important moments of my life... While living far outside society within a small community of 12 kids my age and three mentors, I developed a strong sense of responsibility and leadership. I organized our camp meals and led us in our kayak from Cape Lookout to Shell Point, a three mile paddle through the ocean. These opportunities and experiences are unlike any others I’ve ever had... I gained an inexplicable appreciation and education... Our mentors stopped us along the way and like students of an aquatic classroom, we steered our kayaks together... listening as Herbie clutched a wild rose between his fingers and explained the transitional vegetation we’d observe along the way.

Kirsten has kept in touch with her fellow expeditioners through reunions she has organized and through social networking sites such as Facebook. She is currently a student at Duke University studying marine biology.



Down on the GRP Farm...

According to Kay Campbell, GRP farm manger, the first summer was a resounding success. She said the campers enjoyed feeling like a part of something that was a benefit to everyone -- from harvesting, washing, weighing, and packing to eating the vegetables at mealtimes. In total, 1300 pounds of produce were gathered and 895 ears of corn were pulled.

And can you guess what the campers enjoyed the most? Picking the bugs off the plants which actually played an important part in the farm’s integrated pest management system.

Here’s another interesting tidbit. One side of the worm farm is ready for harvesting. Their castings will be used to fertilize the soil for next year’s crops. They mainly munched on shredded waste paper from the camp office. Now how’s that for recycling!



Remembering...

Two long-time GRP dogs passed away this fall, Sandy’s dog Sunny and Bob’s dog “Tober.” They brought so much joy to the whole community -- from the staff to the campers. Both were well loved and will certainly be missed. We are thankful for the years they shared with us and all that they added to the camp.

Green River Preserve - 12, 000 Years Ago

A father writes a letter to his daughter, a camper at GRP. It’s no ordinary note though. He writes about what GRP might have been like 12,000 years ago...

“Because the great ice sheets had stopped in Virginia about 300 miles north of GRP some 18,000 years ago, the untouched North Carolina landscape was literally filled with extraordinary plants and animals—here is a partial list:

- The first humans (Paleo-Indians) had probably already visited or lived in the Green River Valley for several hundred years. These are the ancestors of today’s American Indians... and maybe of some of your fellow campers or counselors?
- North Carolina was home to perhaps three species of wolves—red wolf, gray wolf, and the giant Dire Wolf (over 150 pounds).
- Since North Carolina had three species of elephant at the time it is likely that the earliest GRP campers would have stepped in mammoth dung!
- It is also very likely that bison and elk roamed GRP along with the modern whitetail deer.
- There would have been more spruce/fir forests. You would also have found most of the same hardwoods, birds, and amphibians found today in the Green River Valley. The numbers of birds and raptors (especially eagles) would have been phenomenal.

If I had written you a camp letter to “GRP of 12,000 years ago”—I probably would have warned you to sleep near the fire at night (to avoid being eaten by the big cats and Dire Wolves), to keep a safe distance from the elk and buffalo, and to watch out for the mammoth/mastodon poop! Remember to bring home an ivory-bill? Also, make friends with the Paleo-Indians...”

Loads of love!
Dad