



10th Anniversary KSMF Celebration

Save the Date: June 23, 2012

Meadowlands Country Club, Blue Bell

Don't Miss the Final Curtain Call!

It seems inevitable that things change. Even the best of things.

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, which was founded in May, 2002. Yes, it's hard to believe that it's been almost 10 years since Kate died in a snowboarding accident. Time has a way of slipping by, as we all know.

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation created gala events to raise funds for various youth wilderness programs, environmental education and environmental conservation and preservation awareness projects. The foundation supports these programs because they would matter deeply to Kate. It has been worthwhile for the youngsters who benefitted, for the youth who will grow up and be in charge of keeping the environment healthy, and for all of those who are involved. Rest assured that these programs are slated for continued support from the KSMF.

The yearly events have forged deep friendships – meeting new people and spending quality time with old friends and dear family members as well. There were six Under-The-Tent events at the Svitek's *Here to*

Stay Farm. We enjoyed Blue Grass, the Beatles, Motown, ABBA, Reggae, and the Beach Boys. There were also a lot of laughs at the Stoozeum and bowling at North Bowl.

Now, it's time to take a hiatus from the annual affairs. It's time to pause and reflect and to determine what the next decade might look like for the foundation's fundraising efforts. So, this year will be the final gala for a while. The KSMF Founders want to step back and consider other undertakings.

So, please **mark your calendar** and try to not miss the 2012 celebration. The date is **June 23, 2012** at Meadowlands Country Club, Blue Bell. There will be stellar entertainment, including Blue Suede Shoes, a tribute to the Broadway hit show, "Million Dollar Quartet", which features the music of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis. Wow!

Your attendance means a great deal to the Svitek family. Through your unwavering support and amazing generosity, we have done more than we thought possible to make Kate's hopes and dreams become a reality.

So, if you've never attended, don't miss this final act. If you've joined us before, you know you'll want to be a big part of this extraordinary celebration!



2003 - Blue Grass Band



2005 - Motown Band



2007 - Beach Boys tribute band



2009 - Reggae Band



2004 - Beatles Tribute Band



2006 - ABBA tribute band



2008 - Stoozeum



2010 - 2011 North Bowl Lounge 'n Lanes

Message

From

Ellen and Frank

Last year's *Message* was about the success of our amazing fundraisers. Today's cover talks about summer 2012 being our final gala for awhile. This must be so confusing!! First, I tell you how thankful I am for the Gala Events and then I say the Foundation is planning on taking a break. Well, let me explain. We plan on continuing our fundraising, but we will suspend the gala event for a few years. We will still sell cards, have an ad book and some smaller scale fundraisers. We will still award scholarships and grants to schools, camps and environmental centers.

The thought of surviving 10 years without Kate is mind boggling. It is so hard to wrap your head around the loss of your child. As I write this column it is especially hard as our son Michael has just become engaged to his girlfriend, Susan LoGiudice and I know Kate would have been so happy for them!

We will be busy planning this joyous occasion with a hole in our heart that never goes away.

(for Frank and Michael)

9th Annual Event at North Bowl Lounge 'n Lanes

On September 24th, 115 people attended the Annual Fundraiser at North Bowl Lounge 'n Lanes. The attendees ranged in age from 10 weeks to 82 years old (neither bowled). It was a wonderful venue and everyone enjoyed themselves. The food was delicious and the menu quite unique. The auction items and raffles raised an extra \$1,500 and the bowlers were really "getting into" their matches. The event was attended by many of Kate's and Michael's classmates and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the generosity of so many supporters, the Bowling Event and the ad book raised over \$59,000.



Ira and Rita Clair



Kathy Elias



Jason Bercholz and Rob Furman



Beth Targan Seltzer,
Angela Pappas,
Jessica Weisbein Brooks,
Deb Harris and
Lauren Quaile

KSMF is GOING GREEN!!

Please help us save paper. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically next year, please send us your email to: esvitek22@aol.com

Check out the
new pictures
for all of this
year's great
events!



Please take some time to visit our fabulous website! www.katesvittekmemorial.org

Backpacking Reflections from Wissahickon Charter School

Traditionally at WCS, the eighth grade class kicks off their year by participating in a five-day Outward Bound Wilderness course. Students work with their peers to successfully hike and camp on a stretch of the Appalachian Trail. This is an excellent opportunity for students to partake in an adventure structured to encourage growth and discovery, while building leadership skills, confidence, and self-reliance in nature. This has been a most beneficial experience for our students and is made possible by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation.

The eighth grade trip begins with “duffle shuffle” where students learn how to pack and pack only what they need for themselves and their group of twelve. They all to soon find the value in these lessons when they heave their sixty-pound pack onto their backs, moaning and groaning the twenty-feet to the vans. Vans loaded, students head off to the woods near Pine Grove Furnace. The sun begins to go low in the horizon. They are off to find their first campsite as darkness sets in around them. Outside of the city hustle and bustle, students are now surrounded by quiet. It is peaceful, yet eerie, as many are not used to such an auditory experience. Reassurances and support are given and received as they make their way uphill to camp. The work has just begun. Students break into teams to set up their shelters of tarps, hang a critter line, and make a much-desired dinner. The day ends with an evening meeting of reflection.



The trip continues for four more days. Some days included ten-mile hikes in the rain to get to the next camp, rock-climbing, navigating to much needed water, learning and relearning knots, standing in a circle until someone takes the last piece of un-claimed gear, and of course taking the wrong trail until students work together to find where they are on the map. Throughout the week, students are challenged intellectually and emotionally outside of their comfort zones. They are pushed to build their skills as leaders, team players, time-managers, organizers, and conservationists. This new adventure comes with ups and downs, hums and haws, laughter, achy feet, newly found friends, and tiredness. In this week of challenges, there is success! Stopping suddenly in the middle of the trail on day four, one student raises his hands up into the air, looks to the sky and yells, “I love doing this!”

Editor's Note: We wish we could print all of the 8th graders' letters, but there isn't enough space. Below are excerpts from the class's thank yous.

... One thing I took away from this experience was don't give up. If you put your mind to it, you will be perfect...

Tynae

... something I learned is that you have to enjoy the little things in life...

Verland

... My greatest success was completing the whole week and coming one with my team and getting to know everyone a little better...

Joya

...My biggest challenge was climbing rocks and walking up steep hills. I say those two because they were things I was going to give up on but I tried harder to succeed...

Dewan

... My greatest success was finishing the whole thing and being proud of myself...

Nadia

... My biggest challenge was when it rained and we still had to hike a few more miles with our wet 50 pound packs... I really appreciate everything you've done for kids all around...

Cameron

... Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go on Outward Bound. It was truly a life experience... I've achieved way more than I thought I could. Outward Bound opened my eyes to way more than not being able to wash for a week.

Pilar



... Thank you very much for donating to our school so we can pay for Outward Bound. I and many other students appreciate your generosity...

Jasmyn

... My favorite part of the camping trip was dinner the night we had tuna cassarol and it started raining but in the rain we put on our rain gear and started dancing...

Jonathan

... First off, let me say thank you for allowing me to go on my very first 5 day camping trip. I also want to say I am very sorry for your loss and what I have read about her she was a great and outgoing woman...

Nay'yar



CAP Students Recall Their North Carolina Outward Bound Experiences

(excerpts from thank you letters)



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek

I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to go to Outward Bound and giving me the chance to experience something new. One of the most important things was tying knots, because they support our tarps with rope. I also learned how to white water canoe. It was so amazing! The glistening water and being taught the techniques came out great.

I believe I can cope with being alone, like during solo, and I thought a lot while I was out there like how beautiful it can be. I thought about how society today counts on technology too much and how people do not admire or stop to think what experiences could do for them. I have fallen in love deeply, if you were to ask with what, I would tell you the wilderness.

Yours truly
Alex Mckoy

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek

I'm writing this letter to thank you for the most wonderful experience of my life. Outward Bound is a great place to spend a summer, learn new things, and meet new people from different parts of the world. It wasn't easy living in the woods for two weeks, but by the end of the trip, I felt like a brand new me. Sure, I had some ups and downs along the way; one of the hardest things being out there to me was not being able to do every normal thing I do when I'm at home. My highest point was when we reached the top of Table Rock Mountain, it felt like I could take over the world at the top of the mountain. Before going to Outward Bound, I had a problem with adapting the new people and this has helped me learn how to handle situations in a better way. This experience was a crazy road, and probably the most fun I've ever had in my life. I really appreciate you giving this opportunity of a lifetime. I'm going to remember this for the rest of my life, hopefully share my wonderful stories with my grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Brian Martino

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

My Outward Bound experience was probably the best thing I have ever experienced. The most important thing I learned while on course was how to handle situations when you have no patience left. From spending three hours on a bear hang to walking four miles in the wrong direction, as a team we worked together to figure out how to get things done. My instructors taught us not only about our surroundings and how to survive out there, but they taught us things we could use in real life. Whether it was about fair trade objects that pay farmers more or about how to tie a knot on our tarp we listened and understood each things importance...

Sincerely,
Katie Tausendfreundt

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

I would first like to say thank you very much. The North Carolina Outward Bound experience has taught me so much. I have learned how to use a paddle and canoe, how to tie knots and rock climb. I have also learned how to communicate with people better. Being out in the middle of the woods with 15 strangers and not communicating would be pretty hard, but thanks to the instructors we have all learned to communicate with one another. Communication was a huge part of the entire trip.

What I found was challenging was carrying a bag up and down mountains almost everyday. Yes, I was hurting, but I was not only carrying the things I needed for out there but the things my whole crew need to survive out there.

However, it didn't kill me it only made me stronger...

This whole experience has helped me become stronger physically, socially, mentally and emotionally. Again, thank you very much; I had the experience of a lifetime. I will never forget those 21 days.

Sincerely,
Kelsi Tausendfreundt

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

I want to take this chance to thank you for giving me this amazing chance to go on the three-week Outward Bound course. I was given the chance to be leader of the day, which gave me the responsibility of timing the entire group and making sure everyone knows what we are doing. I was also given the chance to cook a couple of nights and I think I did a pretty good job. I really loved how this course also got me prepared for the sports I play in school. The course was a one-time chance to experience how to survive out in the woods with minimum amount of supplies. While there, I had to face one of my fears, which was rock climbing, because I am scared of heights. By the third day, I was over my fear and climbing a mountain that was over two hundred feet high. I did not regret anything on that trip, because I can honestly say that it was amazing.

I want to thank you again very much for giving me this opportunity.
Sincerely,
Luis Martinez

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to go on the Outward Bound trip. It was a good learning experience for me. I had the opportunity to meet new people and learn lots of new things during my time out there, I got to do a lot of new, fun, and interesting things while I was out there, too. While I was in the wilderness, I had a lot of new experiences in different situations, because I am from the city and I wasn't used to being out there. One other thing I did out there was go rock climbing. I had a good time doing that, because it was something that was very new for me. I value the opportunity that was given to me, because I know it was not something I would have been able to do on my own. It was something that took me right out of my comfort zone and put me somewhere where I would have to learn and be open to a lot of new things to be able to adapt to life out there. It was a great experience and I would like to thank you for that.

Sincerely,
Sal Santiago

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

During my course at Outward Bound I learned so many things including rock climbing and canoeing. I learned how to be respectful to others at my lowest points. Many things happened that had changed me for good...

I learned what my hidden talents were. One of the most important talents that I discovered was my compassion towards others. I will continue to use my talents back at school and carry them in my life. I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to be outside in the woods and outside of my comfort zone. I loved climbing the cedar Rock, and being myself with the others. I learned about the valuable things were that I never appreciated back home.

I do appreciate your generosity that helped me learn so much that I know every kid would love to experience.

Sincerely,
Tuyen Dinh

Green Valleys Association's* Summer Nature Day Camp

Thank you for your grant that helped us host these guest speakers for seven of our camp themes this summer. Nature stories with Bill Wood, storyteller; bird banding with Doris McGovern; live animal programs from Bob's Critters and Great Valley Nature Center; Native American dance, storytelling and music with Spirit Win; shelter building with a Warwick County park ranger; story telling, games and songs with Rich Humphreys, the GnomeMa; geocaching for older campers with GeoVentures, Inc.; clay sculpture with John Matthews, artist.



*Green Valleys Assoc. is situated on 155 miles in Chester County. They run an environmental day camp for children during the summer.

No One Is Left Behind at College Settlement Camp*



A \$5,000 grant to College Settlement Camp in Horsham, PA provided the funds to build a climbing wall to expand the on-sight challenge programs at camp. The camp's High Ropes Course provides many of the benefits of climbing and is well utilized by campers. However, some campers just cannot scale the trees to access the high ropes course, some because of fear and some because of physical limitations. The climbing tower can be tailored to the needs of the climbers, and set for various levels of difficulty. The climbing tower involves all participants in completing a successful challenge. No one is to be left behind because of fear or inability. We also emphasize the important role of the camper that provides instruction and safety checks. This is the camper that is the belayer. The task of belaying is assigned to a camper who stays at the bottom. This person is a vital ingredient in a successful climb. The camper who may have the most difficulty either with fear or physical limitations takes on the important role of the belayer. The belayer wears a harness and assists the climber. Every climber depends on the belayer for safety checks and instruction. Of course, a counselor works with the belayer and is harnessed to the climber. Everyone understands the importance of all team members in a climb. Several core values of College Settlement are reflected in the on-sight challenge programs; we place great importance on providing young people with experiences that promote positive self-esteem. To respect others and the world, young people must first respect themselves. We believe the camp's environment creates an atmosphere where young people can learn to harmoniously live, play and work together as team members.

The climbing wall builds confidence in our campers while building the importance of team work.



*College Settlement Camp offers overnight camping to economically needy children from the five county Philadelphia area. Children come for 2 week sessions

PHS's Youth Environmental Stewardship Program

Summer 2012 marked the sixth year that the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) led the Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) program in partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR), with funding provided by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, Bank of America, Fairmount Park Conservancy, and Philadelphia Youth Network.

The six-week program provided employment to 36 Philadelphia youth from low and moderate income households, aged 14 to 18. These youth, selected by PPR site supervisors, were assigned to six recreation centers and playgrounds located in or near park land across Philadelphia: in West Philadelphia—Papa Playground/Morris Park and Cobbs Creek Park & Recreation Center; in the Northeast—Ramp Recreation Center/Pennypack Park and Olney Recreation Center/Tacony Creek Park; in North Philadelphia—Mander Playground/East Park and Hunting Park & Recreation Center.

Six adult coordinators, led the youth teams into the parks to instruct them in the proper maintenance of trails, riparian buffers, and newly planted trees. The youth teams learned about the proper removal of invasive tree and vine species, storm water management including water bar installation, mulching and recycling. The YES program design encourages revolving leadership, giving each team member a chance to set and delegate tasks to the rest of the team, taking responsibility for the work accomplished on a particular day. The success of this approach is reflected in the teen participants' ranking of teamwork as one of their favorite parts in the end-of-program evaluation.

With the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's support, YES

participants took weekly field trips. Week one: they spent a morning at the PHS Pops Up Garden at 20th and Market learning about garden maintenance and community gardens. Week two: they travelled to Fellowship Farm in Pottstown for team building training through a low ropes course. Week three: they went to Hunting Park to learn tree maintenance and climbing activities. Week four: the YES teams went to Sedgely Woods to play disc golf. Week five: the youth went to Go Vertical Rock Climbing wall.

The last trip, on the final day of Week 6, took them to the PHS office in Center City, where the six teams gave presentations about their work experiences at their recreation sites and in the woodland parks. All team presentations showed that the youth had reflected on all they had done and learned over the summer, acknowledging how much they had benefitted from the program. Each team submitted an inventory of accomplishments as part of its presentation. The combined results of all their work are very impressive. The six youth teams:

- Removed 41 pick-up truckloads of invasive plants
- Maintained 142 newly planted trees & 50 mature trees
- Removed 684 bags of trash
- Collected 36 buckets of recyclables
- Restored about 70,000 sq. ft. of forest
- Installed 4 water bars
- Restructured an existing rain garden to make it work more effectively
- Tended 20 Knockout Rose bushes
- Planted and tended 30 rose bushes
- Spent 8 hours tending PHS Pops Up garden



Please take some time to visit our fabulous website! www.katesvitekmemorial.org

Children Learn Sustainable Farming at Sauvie Island Center*

Thanks again for the support you provided for the expansion of summer programs in 2011. We increased the number of children served. We offered our first week-long camp, which was a huge success. And, we experimented with a few day camps for individuals, which was slightly less successful. We learned a lot, and in the next couple of months will begin planning our summer for 2012.

For the full summer, we hosted 173 children at the farm. Over 90 of these children came on day trips with groups such as the Salem Boys and Girls Club and the St. Johns Community Center. These day trips are very popular, because many of these summer day care programs have very limited opportunities to get the kids outdoors in a natural setting. They love being able to come out to the farm, have an educational experience, and also let kids spend their day exploring the outdoors. It is a great fit because the farm is so beautiful in the summer. The expanded time we have in the summer for cooking and eating is also a bonus.

Our best week of summer was the week-long camp we offered for children from the Linnton Community Center. The Community Center offers a day-care program for families in the working class neighborhood of Linnton, not far from Sauvie Island. As Daniel Fascinetti, their Site Director, puts itthe Community Center is located between the railroad tracks and Highway 30. They are grateful for any opportunity to provide the children with outdoor experiences. The full week format allowed us to spread our five educational modules across the week, and focus related activities around each module. So there was a day for each section: Plant Parts, Pollination, Soil and Compost, Seed to Harvest, and Wildlife and the Food Web. Each day also included nature journaling in a quiet spot, an art or craft activity related to the module, harvesting food for lunch and a simple cooking project. For example, on Pollinator day, children made honey seed balls for an afternoon treat (very popular). Every day the kids harvested vegetables for a big salad. Then they prepared it on their own to eat with their sack lunches (including the

dressing). I've never seen a group of kids eat so much salad.

Our day programs are very driven by the clock. The full week allowed time to really dig into the topics with the kids, and to approach them in a variety of different ways – hands-on activities, art projects, journaling and cooking. We were very pleased with the week, and so were the kids. We expect to offer between 2-4 weeks of week-long programs in 2012, with a mix of day-care programs and individual children.



*Sauvie Island Center in Portland, OR runs a summer program for children from low income housing.

UVM Recipients Share Their Experiences

Dear Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation,

Thanks to your generous gift, I was able to spend ten weeks logging in the area of Fryeburg, Maine this summer, using draft horses as our primary source of power. My teacher for the summer, John Plowden, has used the power of draft animals to harvest timber, pulp and firewood for over twenty years. Along with logging with the horses, over the course of my internship I was immersed in all peripheral work that having a horse-powered operation requires; John and I spent many days mowing, raking, and baling hay and the better part of a week welding, cutting, grinding and remanufacturing an old logging cart to John's specifications. As John would tell me after a particularly grueling hay-day: "It's all part of horse logging."

While this internship, like most draft horse-centered learning situations, was unpaid, your scholarship helped make it economically feasible for me, from the obvious equipment I needed to purchase (chainsaw and safety gear) to less obvious expenses (purchasing a credit from UVM so I could be covered by their general liability insurance). I also became connected with an international community of teamsters and draft horse enthusiasts, Draft Animal Power Network (DAPnet) which recently elected me to their board of directors, due to my experiences with John and general enthusiasm for our craft.

I see working with draft horses, and draft horse logging in particular, to be a big part of my future. I love the way that they treat the forest and I love the way I feel when I work with them. Thanks to your gift, I was able to discover this passion of mine, which will shape my future choices and contributions to the field of forestry.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Sincerely,

J. Ethan Tapper



Dear Svitek Family,

When I hit a financial bump in the road, it is easy for me to become stressed out. Luckily, I have always had my mother to remind me that if I really want something, there is way to make it happen. It is through her advice that I came to you when I couldn't figure out how to pay for travel, food and gear expenses. I can't thank you enough for the financial assistance you gave me. Affording my internship would likely not have been possible without you.

During the Fall 2010 semester, I participated in a field program through a non-profit organization called Northwest Connections, located in the beautiful Swan Valley of Montana. This small NGO provides educational field semesters, conducts field research and aids in community conservation discussions. The program I did was called "Landscape and Livelihood" and focused on community-based conservation in rural areas. I enjoyed the program, the people, and the location so much that I couldn't resist an offer to return for a summer field internship. The formal internship consisted of two main research projects; collecting grizzly bear DNA and surveying streams for fish DNA. However, due to the nature of the organization, every moment was a unique learning opportunity. While out hiking for grizzly hair samples, my supervisor Adam taught myself and the other two interns the local flora and fauna and described various aspects of biogeography and ecology. He is also an expert tracker, and the three of us became well-versed in tracking as well.

The grizzly bear DNA project is conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, headed by biologist Kate Kendall and based out of Glacier National Park. The project, formally called the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Grizzly Bear DNA Project, estimates the population of grizzly bears in a given study area through the collection of DNA samples. In this case, the study area was 8.5 million acres of land surrounding Glacier-Waterton National Parks. Bear fur is caught on barbed wire that is stapled to trees when bears rub their backs against them. Field biotechnicians (like myself) collect that hair and send it to the field station in Glacier where it is passed on to DNA labs. The study is relatively high profile, and is necessary to get an accurate description of the viability of one of the last remaining grizzly populations in the United States.

The fish study required a bit more advanced technology. Northwest Connections bought a stream shocker, which is essentially a generator backpack that emits electrical current through a probe into stream waters. The point of this is to stun fish in the stream long enough for them to be netted and collected in a bucket. At first, this might sound ridiculous, but there is a perfectly legitimate reason behind it.

The westslope cutthroat is a species of trout that spends its life between the headwater streams and the main channel of a river. They are native to the Swan Valley, but have begun to hybridize with the non-native brook trout, introduced in order to "enhance" Montana's booming fishing tourism industry. The brook trout is able to out-compete the westslope cutthroat, which is harmful enough to the population; however, the two species are able to interbreed, diluting the gene pool of the westslope cutthroats. My job was to collect their DNA in the form of fin clips for analysis.

Your generosity enabled me to participate in this rewarding internship, gaining valuable career experience and making lasting connections with work references. I also made some amazing friends and saw unbelievable places and animals (grizzlies, wolves, elk and even a mountain lion!). Thank you again for affording me this unreal experience. I honestly cannot thank you enough.

Sincerely,

Sean Donovan



Dear Svitek Family,

I am writing to say thank you for giving me the means to have an incredible internship this summer in Madagascar with the NGO Honko (mangrove protection and sustainable development). This internship gave me a once in a lifetime opportunity to work in one of the most amazing environments in the world and truly showed me some of the professional opportunities that await me after school.

Honko's goal is to help the communities in the southwest of Madagascar develop sustainably while protecting the mangrove ecosystems in the area. I had the opportunity to see what it was like to run an NGO like Honko. The normal director Benjamin Deridder left to go to South Africa from late May to August leaving me to watch over the center. I helped in all facets of the NGO's work which included directing the three guides that worked at the center every day, organizing tourist visits, organizing a huge international mangrove party between the five villages Honko works with, I set up a soccer tournament to promote Honko, conducted forest transects throughout the mangrove, and was responsible for all of the financial regulation of the NGO. Outside of these duties I had to take on whatever challenge the people brought me. I was forced to learn to adapt in many situations that were completely foreign to me. I got to know the Malagasy people in a way that would not have been possible in any other setting. I believe that Honko is doing wonderful things for the villages I worked with and Madagascar as a whole. This organization is showing the people that there are sustainable ways to live without destroying a valuable mangrove environment.

Before I had this internship I had developed a pessimistic view of the environmental field. From all I had learned it seemed almost a hopeless cause, due to the fact that there is always a tradeoff to go "green." Usually that trade off was money. Asking someone who already is struggling to eat to spend more money, or sacrifice their time in the name of environmental protection is a difficult task. Honko gave me faith. The people who the NGO worked with really were starting to become more environmentally sustainable and seeing a return from their actions. I came into this internship worried that I would never see a practical way to protect valuable natural resources. This internship showed me that there are realistic methods to preserving the environment without disrupting peoples' livelihoods entirely.

Finally, without your generosity I would not have had this opportunity at all. This internship shaped my career path and my beliefs about working for the environment. I developed a deep interest in the global environment and ways to incorporate peoples' livelihoods into protecting it. I can't express how much your contribution means and did for me.

Thanks,
Ralph Rogers



KSMF Funds Nature Program Expansion at Camp Attaway



Camp Attaway is a three week summer day camp for children aged 7-13 with emotional and behavioral disorders. The nature program entered its fourth season during the 2011 summer. Over the past four years, the program has grown into a weekly event that excites both campers and counselors. Due to the generous grant provided by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, we were able to expand the program to include several new activities.

We began camp with the idea that we should bring nature to us. Two nature activities took place during the first week of camp. First, campers were given the opportunity to plant vegetable and flower seeds. This activity gave campers the opportunity to nurture and care for something outside of themselves. Campers watered the plants and gave them sunlight and as the days of camp went by watched the plants sprout and begin to grow. The second activity was new to camp. A naturalist was hired

to bring in several reptiles for the campers to see. Not only did the naturalist allow the campers to see and touch the animals, but he also taught them a great deal of information about these rare creatures. Campers were fascinated and excited about seeing the reptiles. One camper said "I liked the snakes and I got to see them and feel them too." Another camper "learned a lot about the different types of lizards that [she] had never heard of." Not only did campers gain new information but were then able to share it with others. This camper told us "the best part was seeing the turtles. I got to teach my little sister what I learned."

This summer marked a new achievement at camp in that we had six counselors in training (CIT). As part of the nature program, we wanted to give the CITs a special opportunity. By working with the Howard County branch of the University of Maryland extension office, we were able to arrange to have a guest speaker meet the CITs at a local park and give a talk about composting. CITs learned about the process of composting and how they can have a positive influence on changing the amount of waste created by society. The CITs also took the opportunity while at the park to do some boating. CITs got to work on social skills and team work while enjoying an afternoon on the water.

The second focus of the nature program was to bring the campers out into nature. This was accomplished on two different trips, one to Terrapin Adventures and the other to a local stream. At Terrapin Adventures, campers spent the first part of the afternoon in the woods working on challenges as part of a ropes course. The second part of the afternoon was spent learning about the principles of Leave No Trace.



WVU Program Continues to Thrive

It is hard to believe this is the fifth year offering this course and each year we are reinforced at the impact the course has with each student. The course has again been highlighted, this time in the WVU at Parkersburg Foundation's newsletter. Eleven students (three male and eight female) were selected by the team taught faculty of Dr. Phil and Denise McClung. The trip was May 7-13, 2011.

On the first evening, a majority of the students pitched their first tents and constructed group living quarters while preparing dinner for the group. Students quickly learn the importance of cooperation and the group dynamics were well on their way to developing a working team and caring group of people who were learning to watch over each other and our environment. Watching this develop in the group each year is rewarding. Students were in charge of preparing menus, fixing meals, cleaning up and evening activities which included assigned topics concerning the next day's schedule that they had researched and prepared in order to inform the group of what would be experienced the following day. These discussions are often powerful and strengthen group bonding.

This year we added a new experience for the students. We

completed a tree tops canopy tour with ziplines, sky bridges and rappelling. Many students were challenged beyond what they themselves thought they could do. We were at times, 80 feet in the air on wires or standing on platforms and bridges. It took lots of team encouragement and self-talks for some of the students to finish the course. Their self-confidence rose by the end of this day and continues long after the course is completed.

What an experience the challenge course was for everyone. Students were challenged mentally, physically and emotionally. It builds teamwork, trust, and confidence in oneself and others. We had our trip banquet and processed the trip.

Our students continue to add to and improve the campus fitness walking trail. We have added items such as team building, benches and tree identification to the trail. Each year, the student projects must be something that adds to the campus or community.

Thank you, Svitek Foundation for your continued support to help educate and offer students this outdoors learning experience

Dr. Phil and Denise McClung



The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's mission is to provide financial support to individuals, groups, and various institutions whose interests and goals align with Kate's hopes and dreams. The primary focus is to promote and help underwrite a range of activities and education principally related to outdoor and wilderness exploration, study, observation, preservation, improvement, expansion, and enhancement. Please remember Kate by visiting our website and making a tax deductible contribution. All volunteers are welcome to assist in the planning of all activities. Please visit our website at www.katesvitekmemorial.org to learn more about Kate, her dreams and her accomplishments.



Getting To Know Kate

Those who had the fortune to meet Kate all knew what a vivacious and unique person she was. Not only did her sparkling personality shine through, but her intelligence and understanding of her world were immediately evident. This section of the newsletter is being included to give those who did and didn't get to meet her a better understanding of what she stood for and the mark she had made on her world in the short time she lived.

Kate wasn't afraid of things, she had an incredible strength of putting things into great perspective, and a perfect example is Kate's advice on my fear of flying. I must start by telling you I am absolutely terrified to fly. And whenever Kate heard about this she would laugh at me and say in her distinct Kate voice, "that is ridiculous Dwyer". And she would tell me to get on the plane, whatever will be, will be. On more than one flight since the time Kate told me that, I have sat on the plane thinking to myself, "Okay, Kate is totally fine with this, she flies all the time, and because she is not scared she gets to do the coolest things, she said it's crazy that I am making myself scared, and there is really nothing to be scared of." This advice came to me again a few weeks ago on a flight to Florida. I was so scared, and Kate just kept running through my mind. I kept telling myself "I am wasting my time worrying, Kate is laughing at me right now, she is thinking I am being ridiculous." So basically, in one way or another, on those flights last month, Kate got me through them.

One of the things I always admired about Kate was her independence. She was always doing things by herself, and had no problem with it. She had such a free spirit to go and do the things she loved, even if it meant she had to do them alone. The many times I talked to her in Bend, she was so happy and had so many fun stories to tell. She wanted to go out to Bend, and she did. She didn't think of how far away she was going or who she'd hang out with, she just went. I think she was so incredible for doing it. Kate accomplished so many things that I wish I had the courage to do.

Kate's spirit will truly light the lives of everyone who knew her. I am a better person because Kate was a part of my life.

– Jen Dwyer
Spring, 2002

2011 Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge

Every year the Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge has been held the day after Labor Day. This year, September 6th had over five inches of rain fall and the Event had to be rescheduled.

On October 24th, on a beautiful clear and cool day, 17 foursomes gathered for a day of fun and friendly competition. Thanks to our loyal major sponsors – Belfor, Wilson Elser, Young Adjustment, Keenan Motors and our beverage cart sponsors, CNA Insurance and ECBM. Special thanks to our Gold Sponsors – Liberty Mutual, McKee Risk and Travelers. Additional thanks goes to our Silver Sponsors – Addis Group, Bank Direct, Chubb, Graham Company, Ironshore, Johnson Kendall and Johnson, KMRD Partners, ICU-McCabe, McIntyre Group, Philadelphia Insurance, PMA, Nihill and Riedley, Travelers National Property and US Liability.

Many thanks to our sponsors, registration table volunteers and hole watchers. This event raised fifteen thousand dollars which will help support the scholarships and grants awarded by the Foundation.

2011 WINNERS

1st Place Low Gross **PMA Insurance**
Scott Bogdan, Bob Donato, Glenn Giveans, Drew Jones

2nd Place Low Gross **Philadelphia Insurance**
Jeff Collins, John Doyle, Joe Pitassi, Karen Siegel

3rd Place Low Gross **Ironshore Insurance**
Kevin Fee, John Kurtz, Steve Sandberg, Tom Winkelman

4th Place Low Gross **Travelers Insurance**
Mark Citrone, Dave Hill, Kirk Larsen, Craig Vendetta

1st Place Low Net **Bank Direct**
Joe Cicolini, Jack O'Hara, Kevin Turner, Derek Wall

2nd Place Low Net **Graham Company**
Nick Cushmore, Dina Daniele, Brian Gilbert, Chris Keith

3rd Place Low Net **McIntyre Group**
Luanne Funari, Brian Hill, Tony McIntyre, Jim Walker

4th Place Low Net **US Liability**
John Carini, Lindsey Lewis, Mat Weindel, Scott Woolpert

***Straightest Drive:** Sam Talarico*
***Closest To The Pin:** Scott Woolpert (77")*





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We would like to hear from you. Please consider a gift to the KSMF that will bring us one step closer to delivering on Kate's dream. We welcome suggestions or ideas regarding fundraising events or programming. Perhaps you have a unique outlook or proposal, a special contact in the environmental or wilderness field, or know of an organization or student in need of our support.



Minimum contribution is \$10.
Please notify us if the address given is a change of address.

Enclosed is a contribution: In Memory of In Honor of

Name: _____

Please acknowledge to:

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Please make checks payable and mail to *Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation*, P.O. Box 104, Ambler, PA 19002-0104.
Your contribution will be acknowledged to the recipient.

Contributions are considered a 100% charitable donation. KSMF is a registered § 501(c)(3) organization. The official registrations and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement

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