

# Spruce Twigs\*

*Sprucelands Equestrian Center and Summer Camp ~ Est. 1935*

## Letter to \*Camper Parents

Sprucelands has done well keeping afloat during the economic crisis of these past three to five years. With hard work and sacrifice, we have made it this far. Now we need your help.

First and foremost, please **make decisions about this coming summer** and send in your registrations. The \$200 registration fee that accompanies an initial application to camp gives us cash flow. That cash flow is so important. It keeps up with overhead.

Second, if you **network for us**, it goes a long way in recruiting new campers. When monies are tight, our advertising budget is smaller, and so word of mouth really gives us the pick up we need. Family, friends, co-workers, even those you know in stables where your children ride...all are connections that just might generate summer business for the 2011 season.

Sprucelands is a camp that makes a difference. Repeatedly, campers from years gone by write to share they are the person they are today because they attended Sprucelands Camp.

Some were wallflowers. Others were struggling with the stresses of school or family. Most found themselves



**Being with horses is a little piece of heaven.**

through a healthy, safe relationship with a horse. They balanced themselves both in and out of the saddle: new friends, perspectives, knowledge and fun.

The opportunity continues today. Sprucelands invests in young people, gives them responsibility and they grow. Plain and simple: we are building tomorrow and it is inspirational.

Traditionally, prices have been lower than other riding camps. Even today I work at keeping us reasonable because I want Sprucelands to be an accessible experience. For us though, staying reasonable limits resources and reserve.

We need you. We need you to download your camp application and mail it in with your

registration fee. If you cannot commit to specific dates yet, then you've got until May 1<sup>st</sup> to let us know. There's flexibility there. And talk to others because your support will generate a full camp this summer. Together we are a team.

## Staff Meeting

There will be a meeting of Senior Staff and Counselors on March 12th from 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Folks are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. Supper will be at a local restaurant if you are able to stay.

Goal for our session is to brainstorm for the 2011 summer sessions. Theme: *Toy Story*. Bring craft, program and decorating ideas with you. This is the start of something big!

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### *Special points of interest:*

- Sprucelands has been under Eileen Thompson's direction since 1979.
- Our camp theme this summer will focus on positive messages from all the *Toy Story* movies.
- Sessions 2 and 3 are the most popular sessions this summer so save your space soon.
- Tarrah Phelan and Alie Reindel return as Head Riding Instructors.
- Katie Krempholtz is Barn Manager.

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# Searching\* for Parent Volunteers!

Every business reinvents itself if that business wants to succeed in an ever-changing world. With the strong emphasis on volunteerism, Sprucelands is searching for parents who might share their talents with us at camp in one way or another.

What does that mean? We are looking for innovative program ideas to supplement our already rich program. Example: a parent has discovered that a clowning class is offered at a local college. That parent has volunteered to contact the college to see if an internship program could

be implemented at Sprucelands, with a student or two teaching our campers and staff about clowning. Novel.

Another parent is looking into grants, possibly writing a grant for Sprucelands. Yet another parent is exploring all kinds of clever art ideas for the summer, gathering materials and cataloging directions.

Are you someone with a talent who could invest in Sprucelands? Could you work behind the scenes, or possibly bring your talent into camp and share it with us?

I know this may be asking a lot of you. However, these are the days when we all need to work together so that a quality program can service our children well. What can you do to help? How can you enable individual or group camper growth and stimulate new thinking?

If you are willing to give us some of you, then contact Eileen at 585 457 4150 or write an email to spruceland@gmail.com. We would love for you to catch our spirit. Invest in this wonderful place and make a positive difference. It really is fun.

## Amazon\* is making a difference!

As you know, entering Amazon.com through our blog earns Sprucelands credit for your purchases. It does not matter what you buy. When you go to our blog, and click on Amazon.com in the side panel of the blog, you open the door and walk into Amazon. Sprucelands earns a percentage of what you buy.

We started this venture last spring. I am now happy to report that we are benefit-

ing from this program. Thanks to Amazon and you we are earning between \$50-\$100 each month. That may not seem like much, but \$100 each month for twelve months pays for a camper scholarship. It helps us manage horse feed for four months during the winter or a year's worth of horse ribbons for horses shows.

This is an easy contribution to Sprucelands. With very little effort, just a few

*"I am now happy to report that we are benefiting from this [Amazon] program..."*

clicks of your mouse, you can make a difference. Spread the word. Tell friends, family and co-workers to shop through the blog and in the process maybe they will check out the Sprucelands program. You never know. They might become interested in what we have to offer.

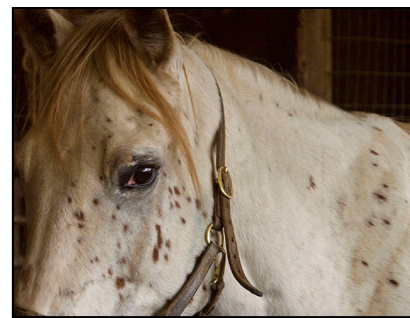
## Goodbye\* is always hard.

In February, we bid farewell to our 32 year old horse, Fella. Email messages to Sprucelands came from campers and staff here, there and everywhere.

Many shared their love for this old friend. He was accepting, steady, reassuring, trusted, and a builder of self-confidence. For quite a number, Fella was their first ride ever. They loved him.

For those of us involved with the horses everyday, it was not a difficult decision. Fella failed dramatically after camp, dropping a great deal of weight and becoming weaker by the day. It was an effort for him to get up once he was down.

We had a sense that Fella was asking us to let him go. So February was the month for farewells to a fellow teacher and very



dear friend. This is a horse that we will always remember as a key player in our Sprucelands history. He leaves us with many wonderful stories. How lucky we were to know him.



## New Kitchen Staff in 2011

It is with great joy that we announce a total change in our kitchen leadership. Ann Marie West will step into the Head Cook role. She is wonderful. Her sense of humor infects us all; her cooking is out of the world, and we love her.

The spirit in our kitchen is contagious. When we have a positive atmosphere at the very core of camp, then there is a positive atmosphere in all of camp.

Often campers and staff connect with the nurturing, cozy feeling of mom in the kitchen. They talk, laugh, sing and tell

stories about their day while meals come together and the Sprucelands family recharges itself.

Sounds like there may be cooking classes this summer for anyone interested in learning how to bake, decorate, plan menu and prepare specialties. Meals will be delicious, nutritious and memorable.

Ann Marie is a joy. She makes us all feel special and we do our best to give that feeling back to her. Come to the kitchen and share the laughter. It quite simply is guaranteed fun. See you there!



**AnnMarie makes everyone smile. She is full of life, energy, and fun.**

## Looking for Camp Horses

Every summer we expand our string of school horses with horses from other stables and personal owners. Last year's recruits were safe, sane, and sound. There was Kayne, Navarre, and Brandy, to name a few. They carried many a rider and in the process benefited from training hours in the saddle.

If you have a horse or know of anyone with a horse or horses that could be an

asset to the Sprucelands summer program, please connect us. This is the time of year when we start looking for horses so we know we are ready come June.

It does sound as though Jax will return to camp this summer. Lorie our barn manager asked that we include him because he complained last year that he was bored in his home pasture. So Jax lovers, come and ride him. He really missed you!

*"This is the time of year when we start looking for horses so we know we are ready come June."*

FYI: There is no boarding cost for a horse ridden in the overall program. There is a board expense for riders who bring a horse and only ride it themselves.

## Riding Gear Request

We have specific requests for safe riding gear. First of all, **every rider must have their own helmet**. That helmet must be stored in a bag with a string or in a plastic bag with handles so that the bag may be hung from a hook.

Helmets must be worn by its owner and only its owner. **No helmets are to be shared**. We learned the hard way years ago that this is more sanitary. Please im-

press on your camper they cannot share when it comes to helmets.

Also, **hiking boots are not acceptable for riding**. While they have a heel, there is too much tread on the bottom of the boot. A stirrup can get stuck in that tread, making it difficult for a rider to dismount in the event a quick dismount is required.

It is vital that a rider have a heel on their footwear. There are options. Tack shops,

JC Penney and Kohls will sell paddock boots that are appropriate. Riding sneakers are another option also found through tack shops or at Amazon.com. Some riders opt for riding in their muck boots. Although those do not have much actual support for the foot., they will work.

Thanks for understanding and working with us on this. Most important is the health and safety of your rider.

*Sprucelands Equestrian Center  
and Summer Camp ~ Est. 1935*

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E-mail: [spruceland@gmail.com](mailto:spruceland@gmail.com)  
Camp blog: <http://spruceland.blogspot.com>

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## Sprucelands

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Est. 1935

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*Karaoke & Barn Dances*

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*Drill Team*

2011

When making your decision about camp this summer, consider memories from last year. Photos help. Remember these

good times and choose yourself back into the fun, friends and horsemanship learning for 2011. Register today!



"Anything is possible at Sprucelands!"

# *\*Communication connects us!*

**Communication builds relationships and stimulates understanding. Join us as we work together at staying connected!**

Sprucelands prides herself on good communication. There is our website and blog, both which are user friendly.

The blog is helpful in the off season

because it keeps everyone up to date on events and happenings. It is equally helpful in the summer so parents and grandparents know what their camper is doing during their camp stay. Many parents feel as though they have been to camp too after reading day-to-day blog posts and seeing fun photos.

Facebook is another arena for communication. The camp owner/director - Eileen Thompson - is happy to become your friend. Simply attach a little message that you are befriending her through your interest in Sprucelands. Eileen is amazed at how many people communicate regularly with her over facebook. It continues the 'summer family' feeling year round.

There is also a page for Sprucelands Inc. on facebook, and another called Sprucies for Life. Sometimes 'groups' are started so that Sprucelands may easily and quickly get messages out to you.

If you are on facebook, please let us know so we may get connected. Also, please

make certain we have your email address because often brief messages are sent your way. Even a newsletter like this can be sent in pdf format so you have immediate access to camp news.

During the summer, communication is stressed continuously. Riders are encouraged to communicate with their horses and instructors. Camper-camper and camper-counselor communications are emphasized from opening day through the summer. It's all part of being balanced not only in the saddle but also in relationships and priorities on the ground.

So do your part. Communicate with us and we will return the favor to you. ❤️