

# SPRUCELANDS



May 1, 2008

Sprucelands Equestrian Center and Summer Camp

Volume 29, Issue 2

"Anything is Possible" at Sprucelands



## Additions to Website are Helpful

Last year we redid the website, and it was utilized by many camper families. This year, we added a few perks to make things easier for you and for us. One example is the camp application. You can access that on the website, type in your data, and then download it for mailing. That means we can read your information better. The same option will soon be available for the medical form.

Also, download the Horse Application if you are bringing a horse to camp AND read our newsletters online. If you want to stay abreast of what is happening, read our blog. You will find links in the website Table of Contents. In the future, we will make even more information available to you. If you have ideas about what you would like, let us know.

## Search for Horses \* is Underway

Looking ahead to summer means searching for new lesson horses. Alison, Jaime, Eileen and our barn manager, Lori, look everywhere for safe, sane and sound horses.

We continue with our happy horses from last year. However, Scribbles, a chestnut

mare, has been added as a trade for a horse named House. Buddy is a chestnut gelding who was traded for Spanky. So those two are being schooled for camp.

We have recently acquired a horse for free and are assessing whether it is a horse that will work for us.

Several campers are putting horses in the program; and there are families in our local area willing to share their cheerful steeds with you.

Let us know if you have a horse to share. Makes for an exciting summer when we have awesome horses for you to love.

## Hello from Eileen

We celebrate 80 degree temperatures, and wonder at the same time if they will last. Best part is that snow has given way to blooming flowers. Trees pop their buds and the grass is green. Busy birds are back at the feeder, and the horses are shedding big-time.

Campers continue to register for camp sessions. Just yesterday I gave the cook's tour to an interested family, and after a fun visit, they enrolled their daughter.

We anticipate an exciting summer season. Counselors and CITs are ready to share their caring and enthusiasm with campers from near and far.

I look forward to knowing you this summer. We have a wonderful spread in ages that will keep camp fun. So bring your energy, your willingness to learn, and your creative ideas. I know we will have a great time together.

### Special points of interest:

- Camp Lodge phone is turned on in June: 585 457 9998.
- Medications are turned in to Camp Nurse on Opening Day.
- Okay to bring posters for the walls in your cabin, and a throw rug for next to your bed.
- Camp laundry done on Mondays & Tuesdays.

## Out of Camp Permission

When relatives visit campers at Horse Shows and ask to take your camper out of camp for lunch, we need written parent permission. When CITs want to leave camp with a friend or relative on their day off, we need parent permission.

Since Sprucelands becomes your child's guardian while they are at camp, then Sprucelands is liable for your child's safety. For that reason, we are asking you to clarify who can remove your camper or drive them home from camp.

We have designed an **Out of Camp Permission Form** and ask that you complete it for us. You may download it from the website. Bring it with you on Opening Day or mail it to Eileen.

## Sprucelands Equestrian Center and Summer Camp

1316 Pit Road, P.O. Box 54  
Java Center, New York 14082  
Email: spruceland@aol.com  
Website: www.sprucelands.com  
Telephone: 585 457 4150

**Remember: Our camp season is from June 29-August 23, 2008.**

### Places to Stay in the Area

We are in dairy country so there is nothing around the corner. However, the following may help you in your planning.

Hampton Inn, East Aurora, NY 716-655-3300  
Arcade Village Motel, Arcade, NY 585-492-3600  
Roycroft Inn, East Aurora, NY 716-652-5552  
Hillside Inn, Wyoming, NY 585-495-6800  
Bryncliff Resort, Varysburg, NY 585-535-7300  
(they have a terrific golf course)

## Summer \*Camp Theme

This summer's theme is SHREK, and after watching the movies that are out there, I am interested in focusing on the positive messages I hear hidden in the SHREK stories. Things like the importance of friendship, standing up for what you believe in, valuing family, and working as a team speak to all of us.

Every year we build our Sprucelands summer around a theme. With a framework for designing creative, fun-filled programs and laughing ourselves silly, we use our imaginations and in the process often discover our more serious side.

What I like about SHREK is the integral emphasis on strong relationships, independent thinking, responsibility for one's actions, sensible choices, and self confidence. We take those messages and apply them to camp life.

No matter whether it's a donkey or a fairytale character, there is a clear invitation to look at how we can make a life-changing difference to others. And that's where the magic is: making a positive difference to each other. So come to camp and get in on the fun! We are really getting excited.

### You Need These to Come to Camp

To attend camp, you will need the following forms:

- Medical Form
- Rider Release Form
- Homesick Plan
- Community Guidelines
- Out of Camp Permission

Forms are in .pdf format for easy download; find in website Table of Contents.

**Happy Birthday to all those with birthdays during April and May. We wish you our best and send hugs and giggles your way.**

### Work Weekends\* May & June

There are several work weekends this year: May 9-11, May 30-June 1, June 6-8, and June 20-22.

Staff members and/or interested parents willing to work on projects are welcome. Kick off the process of getting camp ready and ease the workload for just a few people. The weather is finally giving us a break.

If you are able, join our grass roots effort. Our pre-camp preparations build our pride in Sprucelands and as a side benefit we have a heck of a good time.

### Staff & \*Campers\* Medical Forms Information

If you filled out your medical form last summer for the first time, then all you need from the doctor this year is an updated medication sheet. If you filled out your medical form two years ago, then you are due for a complete, new medical form.

Staff please take note of the above in case you are due for a new medical. Please make the Camp Nurse job easy and be responsible for getting this done.

### Parents Refer to Website for Last Minute Camp Information

You may be waiting for a mailing from us with forms for your coming to camp. This year we are instead sending you to the website for all the necessary forms for camp. Download them, complete them and bring them with you for check-in. It's that easy. Saves us postage and makes it more convenient for you. There's a list of what to bring and what not to bring, a statement of our telephone and cell phone policies, telephone numbers and addresses, camp care package information, and lots more. If you can't access the forms, contact us. We will mail them.