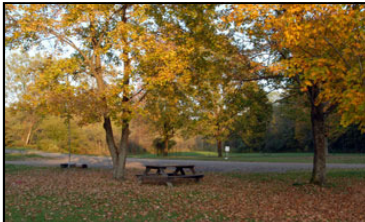




Spruce Twigs

Fall Greetings from the Director



Picnic Table ~ Fall



Clinic Helper Greetings



Horses Still Working

Order your DVDs

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The end of summer. Hmm. I don't know about where you live, but here at camp the temperatures continue in the 60's and 70's. Unbelievable.

Of course, Lori our barn manager is loving this weather. It makes doing stalls so much easier. The stalls stay dry. Our horses love being out at night.

We finally had rain this last week. Stacey is happy because he has consistently been hauling 1000 gallons of drinking water for the horses

from the lake to the barn.

Riding lessons are in full swing. New riders from the local area have connected with Eileen; some campers and their parents have joined up for a lesson here and there. That is lots of fun.

Weekend Clinics are enjoying the lovely weather. What is really terrific is the fact that trail ride clinics benefit from the warmth, and the scenery is breathtaking what with the changing leaf colors. This riding weather is ideal what with the absence of summer

horse flies. Now we are having more trouble with bees.

Campers are registering for camp next summer. Registrations started arriving September 1st. Many want to take advantage of the early bird discounts from the website. Even Counselor in Training (CIT) spots are being claimed for 2008.

I hope you will read through the newsletter to hear more specifics about what keeps camp buzzing in this the off season. By the way, I really miss you all.

Theme for the 2008 Summer

We select a theme every year and then we enjoy silly fun with that theme during camp. This last summer we loved doing Harry Potter.

Decorations in the Camp Lodge were wonderfully creative. Riding classes

reflected the theme in the names of the classes, and so did evening programs.

Well...during the last session of camp, campers and staff voted on theme ideas for 2008. After tallying votes, we are honored to introduce

SHREK as the overwhelming winner for the 2008 theme.

Most campers and staff like the positive messages that permeate *SHREK* stories. They also believe fairytales within *SHREK* may be fun to pull into camp.

Early Bird Specials now available. Check out the enclosed registration form. Discounts on camp tuition aim to make the cost of camp easier for you. With a \$200 deposit and a completed camp registration form, you lock in the current discounted price of camp. Final tuition payments - due after January 2008 or April 2008 - will reflect your discounted rate. So register today. Save your space...and pay less.



Registration Special



SPRUCELANDS Blog Continues

Thank you for the positive reviews on the camp blog. Your feedback has been both helpful and appreciated.

Our basic intent with the blog was to make a diary of camp so camper parents would feel included in what was happening during their son or daughter's camp time.

At the same time, campers coming into camp or campers who went home would know what was happening. With

short written pieces and photos, you were caught up in routines, programs, philosophy, struggles and successes. Sounds as though you loved hearing about our fun.

By popular demand, the blog continues. Eileen posts photos and notes so you can stay up to date with life at Sprucelands as it is after camp, as slow as it may be.

The blog has become a helpful marketing tool. You

may in fact help Eileen with recruiting new campers if you encourage prospective campers and their parents to look over the blog from summer camp 2007.

From time to time, Eileen may also get news out to you that is important for you to have. So stay in touch with the blog. It is a helpful conversational tool as well as an expansion of these monthly newsletters.

"You may in fact help Eileen with recruiting new campers if you encourage prospective campers and their parents to look over the blog from summer camp 2007."

Shutterfly Photos

So you are aware, Eileen is uploading photos to the Shutterfly website. If you are a scrapbooker, then perhaps you would like to purchase your favorite camp photos.

You may also purchase mugs, mouse pads, note cards, and more. Right now all the DVD photos are on this website as are cabin photos and portrait pictures.

The fastest connection to these photos is from the blog and there is a link to that on the first page of the website: www.sprucelands.com. Then click on 'August' and then click on the blog entitled PHOTOS.

Soon photos from horse

**Clinic Helpers:
Reunion*
Dec 7-9!**

shows and weekend clinics will be added. What is wonderful is that you get actual photographs in the mail.

If there is a specific photo you want uploaded onto Shutterfly, let Eileen know and she will gladly accommodate you. This could be fun.

Counselors and Counselors in Training

Now that our Harry Potter summer has wound down, we applaud one more time our Counselor/CIT teams for working so well together.

It is quite a challenge for young people like yourselves to take on day-to-day responsibilities with campers, evening programs and horses. But you stepped up to the task with your heads held high, maintaining high standards of conduct at all times.

HORSES

...Thunder had an infected eye for 2 months. It has improved so she can be used again.

...Jenny is in a winter placement with a family in the Java area.

...House is being traded for a different horse. His attitude was not camp appropriate!

...Jackson is sold to Rebecca Smith. He will



GRACIE

return to camp next summer so you will still see him. We are happy for Rebecca.

...Gracie has been retired to a good home. She is doing well and will miss you all. She has had quite a life.

What we want you also to hear is appreciation for the positive role model you offered your campers. Many parents and staff said 'thank you' in notes, email and personal conversations.

A huge thanks from the Senior Staff too. You were upbeat, creative contributors to the Camp Team. Our summer memories are priceless. We hated to see it end.

**All STAFF:
Make your
decisions
about
returning
next
summer
soon!**

A Clinic Helper Special

Hey Campers and Staff!

You're real cool cats,
You got a lot of this and a lot of that;
We all miss chillin' with you,
So here's a little update for you!
(From the 2007 Clinic Helpers!)

Lia (Teck) is learning to become a confident teacher.

Sam (Jones) learned how to see constellations and planets!

Tyler (Strassner) says to tell you 'things are good'.

Andrew (Elich) is coming to clinics!

Kristin (Reindel) helped a scared girl scout overcome fear and 'heart' Fella.

Alie (Reindel) curled up in her sleeping bag and slept on the floor in Eileen's kitchen with K.C. the cat.

Agy (Merkel) confessed that her mom still packs her things for the weekend.

Jenny (Petersen) is having no doubts about cantering.

Kristie (Beckinghausen) makes yummy French toast and pancakes for the Clinic Helpers.

Alie, Kristin, Agy and Kristie jumped their horses in the moon shadows during their Saturday night lesson a few weeks ago.

We all made GREAT friends at the Special Needs Weekend Clinic for Adults.

Eileen is the UNO Champion.

Alie and Tyler dominate at the game SEQUENCE.

Deanna (Selioutski) is learning to be a Clinic Helper.

We are all working hard to remove burdocks and

untangle horse tails this fall.

Alie, Katie (Krempholtz), Kristin and David (Spink) know all the dances to High School Musical #2.

Jenny and Kristie are writing a book with Agy as a character in the story.

Alie and Sam's birthday is on Easter! An early Happy Birthday to you both!

Jenn (Metz) and Katie (Krempholtz) are the moon, and the stars and all the flowers.

David is the master of secret handshakes.

Tarrah (Phelan) finally convinced Lizzy (at the special needs clinic) to come to a.m. feeding.

Matt (Krempholtz) is preparing for surgery on his knee. He tore the ACL.

Anna (Grazulis) is commonly known as 'G' or 'G Walkin' at clinics.

Anna (Krempholtz) is still madly in love with Cody.

Andrew (DiMarino) is an awesome teacher.

Lisa (Phelan) makes our day.



That Clinic Helper Smile



First Clinic: Big Success



Girl Scouts of All Sizes & Ages

**"You're real cool cats;
You got a lot of this
and a lot of that;
We all miss chillin'
with you...!"**

**Happy Birthday to all
September ~ October
birthdays!**



Please be in touch if you haven't let Eileen know how

your wonderful horses? We miss all of you.

We LOVE When You are In Touch

you are doing since camp.

Some have asked about how things are going for you, Emily and Maggie Nelson? How are

Meagan Daniel is doing well in hot Arizona. Julie Batelli is busy with drama club. Margy is working at SATs. Emily Krempholtz is working...with full use of her thumb. The DiMarino family is hosting a student from Germany. Lizzie Briggs is

loving Cornell University and Bonnie is missing her terribly.

Caitlin Gager wrote an essay about her experience with Kokomo. Anna Kramer writes regularly about missing camp; Julia Leiterman is camp sick and wants to bring her horse next summer.

Sprucelands Summer Camp

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GET YOURSELF PUBLISHED:

WRITE an article for our newsletter. We will publish you, especially if your article is about experiences from summer camp. This is an opportunity for you to share with others your positive thoughts and feelings about Sprucelands.

Rocky Road Best Friend

Rocky road ice cream is the perfect ice cream for summer. As you lick the top of your cone, rich, creamy chocolate flows over your tongue, slipping down the back of your throat. White, fluffy marshmallow pieces stick to your teeth for a moment after you've swallowed, leaving a delectable taste in your mouth. Before you know it, your cone is gone, and you find yourself headed back into the ice cream store, craving another.

Kokomo had the exact coloring of rocky road ice cream. His dark brown body was the color of luscious chocolate that would melt in the sun on any hot summer day. Splotches of white covered the horse's back and legs, the same pure shade as a soft marshmallow, fresh from the package. As if his precise coloring weren't enough, Kokomo's demeanor matched the taste of rocky road ice cream completely: sweet and a bit surprising.

Cait fell in love with Kokomo the moment she laid eyes on him. His perked brown ears and huge, soft eyes beckoned her to his stall, where his head rested atop the door. When she unlatched the lock, the horse stepped back without any coaxing, letting Cait enter the stall. Her worn leather boots crunched on the fresh shavings, leaving a trail of footprints. The young gelding sniffed the girl's hand as she held it under his nose, wondering who this unfamiliar person might be. Gently she placed her hand on his neck, petting his soft hair. "Hi, Kokomo," the girl said to the horse, smiling at the thought of riding him in a few short hours. "My name is Cait."

When her alarm buzzed angrily at 8:15 every morning, Cait couldn't shove her boots on fast enough. She was always the first person to the old, weathered barn, waiting impatiently outside until she could sign in and see Kokomo. Usually her horse was in the back paddock, a muddy enclosure behind the barn, with about seven other horses. Since she was experienced enough, Cait was allowed to enter the paddock, traipse her way through the thick, squishy mud, and lead her beloved friend out to the barn. Kokomo always ate from the farthest hay bale, but the teenage girl didn't mind getting her brown boots and chaps dirty.

The metal latch clinked loudly against the gate as Cait opened it to go and collect her horse, making sure to lock it behind her. Sure enough, Kokomo was in the back, obliviously munching on sweet hay, his friends clustered around him. "Angelface!" the young girl called out to him, the nickname she had made for her precious horse. "I'm coming!" At the sound of her voice, Kokomo turned his head to look at Cait, recognition in his deep, dark eyes. The gelding waited patiently for the loving girl to reach him, allowing her to clip the lead rope onto his halter. "Okay, baby, let's go," Cait said, turning her

body to face the gate at the front of the paddock. Without hesitation, Kokomo walked alongside the young girl, the two friends moving at the same pace, neither too fast nor too slow. That's how their relationship always was: two friends, two equals, moving in harmony.

One day, when Cait opened the door to Kokomo's stall, she found her rocky road best friend lying in the middle of a new bed of shavings. He looked up at the young girl curiously as she entered the stall and reached down to brush a patch of shavings off of her horse's back. Laughing quietly to herself, Cait sat down in the shavings as well, her back resting against Kokomo's, and her feet just inches from the door. Wondering what she was doing, the gelding turned his head to look at her, but the young girl just smiled and blew him a kiss. The horse's milk chocolate eyes rested on Cait, making her heart melt. She thought about where she had been a mere month ago, before camp had started for the summer. She groaned as she recalled the mountain of notebooks and papers piled high on her desk and overflowing onto the floor. With pain, she remembered staying up late to finish a history essay and waking up after a measly four hours of sleep. Only one thing had kept her going during those trying times, and she was finally here.

"You know what, Angelface?" Cait said to her horse, smiling as his ears pricked forward in concentration. "I made a calendar counting down the weeks until camp right when I got home last year. I can't imagine what I'm going to do without you when I leave in two weeks." Kokomo whinnied in response, his breath making a tornado of shavings rise and then fall like raindrops around them. Cait giggled at this, watching the flakes settle slowly back to the ground before she reached over to brush them off of her horse's nose.

At the end of the summer, Cait had to leave her riding camp and say goodbye to her best friend. Kokomo was in the back paddock, and as the teenage girl unlatched the gate, she felt her eyes fill with tears. Her beautiful, rocky road gelding looked up at her, his eyes full of questions only Cait could understand. She stroked his white forehead and hugged his silky neck, memorizing his softness beneath her fingers. Fat, salty tears dropped into the horse's tangled mane, sliding down his neck and landing on Cait's boots. "I love you, Angelface," she whispered into the gelding's ear, words that she'd said to him countless times in the last eight weeks. "I will never forget you. I'll be back next year. I'll miss you so much. I love you, baby." As tears poured down her cheeks, staining her lips and chin, the young girl planted a kiss in the center of Kokomo's forehead, white hairs sticking to her wet lips. With one final stroke of his neck, Cait walked away from her best friend, already counting the days until next summer, when she would see him again.