



Welcome!

It's finally here - the first edition of the Birch Trail Alumni Newsletter! Through this newsletter, you will be able to keep up on camp news, share cherished memories, and connect with old friends. We hope that this will be the start of a bi-annual publication, and will be written with all of your submissions. So grab a glass of bug juice and a box of Dorkel bars and settle in for a trip down memory lane.

Color Your Days Bright!

Jan Kaplan Moody (1968-'73, '75, '97-'03)
Jamie Lake (1986-'90, '92-'93, '96-'03)

Birch Trail Alumni Association

Birch Trail's Alumni Association was launched at the 2000 Reunion. The Association's purpose is to give more kids quality camp experiences and honor those who gave them to us!

The goals of the Alumni Association are:

- To keep an accurate database of alumni contacts;
- To connect alums to camp and each other through the newsletter;
- To arrange regional reunions and a 2010 all-camp reunion; and
- To establish a fund drive to support the association and help send needy children to camps.

We are just beginning to organize, and hope that this newsletter will get us started! We'll have more details about how to join the Alumni Association in the next newsletter.

Did you know that BT's lodge is now named Baer Lodge with a giant, wooden teddy bear outside?

Greetings Birch Trail Alumni

By Sue Broder Morgan (1968-'72, '74-'75, '77)

How many of you still identify yourselves as "campers," Birch Trail girls, or simply someone who really loves the "camp thing"? How many times have you daydreamed about a summer day at Birch Trail? Or when June rolls around thought, "It's time to go to Minong"? Having been a camper, counselor and tripper, I usually refer to myself as someone who really believes in camp and in the good that camp provides.

When I sent my daughter to Birch Trail and my son to his camp in California, many of my friends asked, "Aren't you going to miss them?" Of course, I would miss them, but knowing that they were at camp and that they would be experiencing things that brought so much to my life, made me smile. I felt really good that they were spending time being independent, meeting new friends, living without daily pressures and parents to watch their every move.

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Greetings BT Alumni (continued)

At the end of their summer experiences, they seemed grown up, happy, and refreshed. They tried new things, learned new skills, adjusted to living with 7 or 40 other people in one room. They learned how to live in the woods and how to live with minimum conveniences. Simple things like a pretty sunset were the best gift of the day. Freaking out over being chased by a moose was a highlight of the summer.

Many of you understand all this. This has been a wonderful shared experience for my daughter and me! I find it amazing that Birch Trail now proudly boasts over 79 second-generation campers and 3 third-generation campers.

Those of us that attended the reunion in 2000 know that you really can relive your childhood or that perhaps, your childhood never really left you. Although the years have gone by, and our lives are marked by many other big and important events, there always seems to be room for a smile when thinking of Birch Trail.

Contest: Name the Newsletter

Do you have an idea for a creative name for this newsletter? Send your ideas to alumni@birchtrail.com. To have your suggestion considered, please send it by 3:23am on February 12, 2004. The winner will receive a pound of Jack Link's beef jerky and a BT gift pack.

Announcements, Announcements, Announcements

Calling all alums... send us your updates for the next newsletter at alumni@birchtrail.com.

Marianne Baer-Pocost (1961-'78) lives in St. Louis and creates beautiful works of ceramic art. Both of her daughters, Olivia and Suzanne, are the first third-generation campers at BT. How!
marebaer@earthlink.net

Baba Tavel (1966-'71, '73) owns and operates Smilin' Babe's Produce in Indianapolis. Hey, Baba, take a walk on the wild side. smilinbabe2@aol.com

Susie Frank Lutten (1969-'73, '75, '77, '78) resides in St. Louis and coaches the Clayton High school tennis teams (who, by the way, have gone to the state championships several times!). Her daughters, Jen and Emily, were campers at Birch Trail. SuLutten@aol.com

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Who, What, When?

Each newsletter will contain a picture or two from days gone by. Can you identify who, what, and when? Send your responses to alumni@birchtrail.com.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Announcements, Announcements, Announcements (continued)

Betsy Levy Roberts (1981-'87, '89-'95) resides in Denver, and just welcomed the arrival of her first child, Seth. Betsy wishes "hi" to her BT friends who have been strangers since the 2000 Reunion. Hope everyone is doing well! betsyroberts@yahoo.com

Deborah Schneider (1985-86, '88-'90) works as the Associate Director of Career Development at U.C. Hastings College of the Law. She is currently writing her first book, *The Devils Advocate: Should You Really Be A Lawyer?* which will hit the bookshelves in 2004. She'd love to hear from any BT alums! deborah_schneider@hotmail.com

Danielle Wagner Strauss (1985-'90) lives in Milwaukee with her husband and two kids, Justin and Riley. Dhwstrauss@aol.com

Rebecca Fein (1985-'90) works in Firmwide Strategy at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York City. rebecca.fein@gs.com

Wendy Paget (1985-'90, '92-'94) is living in Boston and working in New Hampshire as a staff attorney at the Disabilities Rights Center. Her new summer tradition is a two-week camping trip with her boyfriend - last year out west, this year to Maine. They are considering moving to the Midwest in the not-too-distant future to be closer to camp. WPaget@drcnh.org

Jenny Hilb (1985-'91) enjoys working at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago as a physical therapist. She attended Marni Sholiton's wedding along with a few other BT alums, including Linda Konop. Last January, when she was in Florida, she ran into Tiffany Kaufman on South Beach...it's a small Birch Trail world. jenniferhilb@hotmail.com

Lindsay Miller (1985-'91, '94) currently lives in Baltimore and works at United Way of Central Maryland as the director of the Combined Federal Campaign. She now raids her own kitchen, but doesn't find it quite as rewarding. lindsaym76@hotmail.com

Jessica Anchor-Samuels (1986-'90) graduated from Brown medical school and is now doing her Internal Medicine Residency. She got married May 2002 and is living with her husband and her dog in the Hartford, Connecticut area. jmanchor@aol.com

Lori Cohen (1986-'92) is in San Francisco completing a Masters in Public Health. She works with a network of agencies that provide services to HIV positive women. She says hi to TM of '91. explori@yahoo.com

Amy Schaff Antonacci (1986-'92, '94) lives in Chicago with her husband, Jeff. She works as a project manager for a small consulting company, and misses camp a ton! amyantonacci@yahoo.com

Suzanne Korkin (1987-'93) after two years in Los Angeles for graduate school, is back in Boston working as the Youth Director at Temple Israel. She describes herself as a camp counselor/program director year round, working with 3rd-12th graders. SKorkin@tisrael.org

Emily Cherniack (1987-'93, '95-'98) lives in Boston and works for City Year where she leads Americorps members in serving their community. eCherniack@cityyear.org

Abby Lake (1988-'94, '96-'98, '00) moved into her own apartment after living with her favorite camp roommate, Lora Silverman. They see CJ Sandusky and La Whitefield all the time, but the group really misses Annie Cherniack who just moved to New York City. Abby works as a speech therapist in an elementary school outside of Chicago and wishes that she could still spend summers in Minong! aelake@aol.com

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Two Dolls in a Canoe

By Jan Kaplan Moody ('68-'73, '75, '97-'03) and
Teresa Brickman Finer ('69-'73, '75, '77, '78, '02, '03)

In July of 1972, Jan Kaplan and Teresa Brickman set out on their first Quetico canoe adventure, along with several other crazy T-3 campers and some equally crazy BT Trippers.

In July 2002, almost 30 years later to the day, Jan Kaplan Moody and Teresa Brickman Finer set out on another Quetico canoe adventure.

While we had both been back to BWCA/Quetico many times over the years, this was truly a reunion trip for us. The opportunity came about rather unexpectedly and we seized it - Teresa and her husband were spending a week at BT as camp doctor and Jan had planned her annual BT work weeks at the same time. So when Teresa's husband offered to take care of their younger daughter for an additional week while we tripped through the Quetico, who could resist? Not us, despite obstacles. First, Jan had just started a new job. After 4 weeks of work, she promptly told the boss that she was taking three weeks off! And then, just as we were finalizing our plans, Teresa found out that she was pregnant. She would be carrying a three week old babe in addition to carrying a canoe. The docs gave the OK ("actually just what you need") and we decided that we would take a few extra granola bars and a satellite phone. We rented the last one available and prayed that the baby had woodsy genes.

On an absolutely beautiful sunny July day - Canada Day, actually - we portaged our gear, canoe and all, to a dock on Shagawa Lake in Ely to await our float plane pick up. Since we didn't have the luxury of a lot of time, we decided to fly in to Quetico instead of the long drive we used to do from camp. Jan had warned Teresa before we were picked up that the bush pilot would probably be about 18 years old and adorable, and sure enough Darcy did not disappoint.



*VISA -
Accepted
everywhere,
even in the
Quetico.*



Two Dolls - Then and Now

Everything was going along smoothly on the flight. We were both thinking that we were just the two coolest chicks for doing this when Darcy said, "Wow, I can't imagine my mom doing this!" Bubble burst.

But the best laugh of the morning was when we set down in Nym Lake. Since the Ranger Station is now closed on Nym and you must get your permit prior to leaving town, there is no need to stop on that side of the lake. To save on paddling across Nym (remember those waves?), we wanted to be dropped right at the portage -- wilderness curb service -- but there was no good place to land the float-plane close to shore, so Darcy landed the plane right smack in the middle of the lake. Now picture this: after unloading the canoe from the float plane's pontoons and loading our packs on to the canoe, we pulled out the VISA card and paid for the flight - right there, sitting in the canoe, on Nym Lake. Imagine what a funny and incongruous site that was - in the middle of the wilderness, sitting in a canoe, handing over the VISA. What they say is really true - it's good everywhere!

And that was the beginning of five days of awesome paddling, great weather, loads of laughs, lots of swearing on the portages, of course, and incredible memories to last a few lifetimes. We kept the traditional journal and it is packed with so many great thoughts and stories - the unicorns that ran around our campsites at night, the moose skeleton, the wind bound afternoon on Survivor Island - but we will save those for another time.

The most amazing conclusion from our trip -- 30+ years, husbands, families, jobs and life in general cannot erase the bonds of BT friendships and shared experiences. Oh, and when baby Anna Rose Finer was born this past January, instead of crying, she hollered out...

"Quetico Once, Quetico Twice, Holy Jumping ..."

Announcements, Announcements, Announcements (continued)

Carey Brown (1988-'93, '96-'97) is studying at Hebrew Union College in New York City to become a rabbi. If all goes well, she will be ordained in 2005. Carey has seen many of her TM of '93 bunkmates in NYC and would love to get in touch with old camp friends. careyb321@hotmail.com

Johannah Whitefield (1989-'95, '97) currently lives in Chicago and works at the Hyatt Regency Chicago as a benefits manager. jwhitefi@chircpo.hyatt.com

Suzie Cohen (1990-'92, '94, '95, '97) is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Economics. She misses having lunch with Ann Goldenberg every Wednesday. Huge shout out to TM of '97, love y'all!!!! scohen@sas.upenn.edu

Jen Phillips (1992-'97, '99-'01, '03) is in her last year at Michigan State University studying Elementary Education. Jen just reached her Big 10 at BT last summer. sparty324@aol.com

Nikki Schulman (1993-'98, '00-'03) is a student at Bates College in Maine, but she is currently studying in South Africa where she has seen Kirsty Thompson. She still spends her summers at camp driving the ski boat and getting sunburned. nschulma@bates.edu

Jill Kreindler (1993-'98, '00-'03) is a junior and marketing major at the University of Texas at Austin. She came back to camp in 2003 for her Big 10! JKreindler@mail.utexas.edu

Sarah Broder (1994-'98, '00-'02) attends the University of Michigan. The moniker of "Broder" has been officially passed onto its third generation (Sue, Sarah, Katie, Rachel, and Erica). sbroder@umich.edu

Amy, Amy ("Army") Castano (1996-'00, '02-'03) after a stint as a golf course beer cart driver and seven summers as camp boat driver, is living in Japan teaching English to Japanese children. armycastano@hotmail.com

Big How for the Richard Chernov Children's Fund

The Richard Chernov Children's Fund was established in 2001 to send children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses to summer camp. Since its inception, this fund has helped support camps that specialize in serving these campers with special needs.

If you would like to make a donation or to contribute by purchasing a long-sleeved green t-shirt with the BT logo and "Color Your Days Bright" on it, please contact Gabe Chernov at gabe@birchtrail.com. These shirts are currently in production. Additional information is available at www.birchtrail.com/alumni.

We are currently accepting nominations for the Nut Club... Is she in?

Rose Quartz is alive and well and lives in Minong!!!!

Life's A Birch!

Okay, BT alums, now that we've got your attention, we really want your help with the next newsletter. Please email us the following information at alumni@birchtrail.com:

- Your contact information, as well as contact info about any of your cabinmates, for our database;
- Updates on your whereabouts and announcements;
- Articles or ideas for articles; and
- Anything else!

You're Demissed!