

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA

Call of the loon



SPRING 2011

You can go home again!



Kita never would have gone to the reunion if it hadn't been for Pam.

"She coerced me," Kita explains with a laugh. "I really wasn't going to go."

The fact is, Kita King Mason – former Newfound camper and counselor, mother of two grown sons, and long-time Michigan resident – hadn't been back to camp in more than 20 years. And reunions, retrospectives of any kind, really weren't her thing.

"I don't like to look backward," she says. "I like to look forward."

But long-time friend Pam Rupp Stroud kept calling.

Pam, who lives in California, had spent seven years at camp and remained close with most of the women who had been her fellow CITs in 1970. So when she heard about Newfound-Owatonna's planned reunion in 2006, Pam was in. She got to work tracking down the few friends with whom she'd lost touch, and convincing Kita – who was a year behind her at camp and served as her co-counselor in 1973 – to come along for the ride.

Eventually, Kita relented and agreed

to join four of Pam's old cabin-mates and some 120 other alumni from Newfound and Owatonna at that reunion in Maine five years ago.

Kita wasn't prepared, though, for what happened when she drove down the hill to Newfound.

"All of a sudden, camp came flooding back," she explains. "Not so much the physical location, but the memories. The memories of the joy, the activities, the friends, the love. And also, the memories of the discipline, the things I had learned. It made me see that this place was really fundamental to me and to who I am as a

Call of the loon



4 Camp Newfound Road
Harrison, Maine 04040-9987
(207) 583-6711 Fax: (207) 583-6710
email: info@newfound-owatonna.com
www.newfound-owatonna.com

2011 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANDREW ABOUCHAR, *Treasurer*
Ontario abouchar@techcapital.com

TESSA BOLLINGER, *Chairman*
Missouri tessaab@aol.com

BRAD BRADSTREET, *Secretary*
Maine bradstreet@principia.edu

JOHN CALDWELL
Massachusetts jcaldwell@paradigmprop.com

DAVE CASANAVE
Massachusetts dave.cas@verizon.net

MATTHEW HOFFMAN
Florida mhoffman@mphillc.com

KITA KING MASON
Michigan kkmason@hotmail.com

JENNIFER McPHEE
Massachusetts mcpheejsshb@comcast.net

LISA SYDNESS
Massachusetts lisasydness@gmail.com

ALAN STECKLER
Connecticut asteckler@mac.com

ANNIE WILDER, *Vice Chairman*
Missouri annie.wilder@gmail.com

NEWFOUND/OWATONNA STAFF

Bonnie Bower, Executive Director
Mary Villoch, Newfound Director
Forrest Bless, Owatonna Director
John & Bonnie Bower, Family Camp Directors
Michele Parsons, Creativity Camp Director
Peter Whitchurch, Facilities Manager
Karen Schneider, Communications
Sara Osborn, Office Manager
Amy Baker, Assistant to ED

CALL OF THE LOON STAFF

Editor: Amy Baker
Designer & Photographer: Karen Schneider

PROGRAMS

Camp Newfound *for girls*
Camp Owatonna *for boys*
Family Camp
Creativity Camp

Dear Camp Family,

Winter has been long and gray this year in Maine, but that made the sunny, clear days that did appear even more wonderful! Imagine Newfound and Owatonna under a heavy blanket of snow. There are very large drifts around the Owatonna lodge and all of the cabins in the grove. Down the trail to the Owatonna beach we see tracks from snowmobiles that use the trail to get from the lake to the ridge beyond the camps.

We walk from the Owatonna beach to Newfound on the lake. It is silent out there...as long as there are no snowmobiles about. The shoreline is a quilt of pine trees and snow, snow, snow. Very beautiful. We arrive at Newfound and note the huge drifts around the buildings in lower camp. The cabins are buried with deep drifts across their decks, and the cubies are impossible to enter because of the white piles of snow. The Hill is equally white...but the view to the point and gazebo is mystical. They appear to rise out of a blank canvas and stand there in muted majesty.

How quickly this will change. April sees the snows melting away and everywhere we look, things are budding and turning green. The ice leaves the lake and the loons arrive the next morning. Their gleeful calls wake us, and fill us with wonder. How did they know the ice was gone? But no matter how...they are SO happy to be back. And their calls tell us that summer is about to arrive!

Now camp is CAMP. Mary and Forrest have been planning camp all winter and spring, and soon the staff and campers come, and our cabins, fields, and woods ring with the happy, excited sounds of campers enjoying every moment here on the shores of Long Lake.

This rhythm of the seasons is now approaching its 98th summer. It is like the circle of love that allows parents to send their precious children to us for the summer, and then for the children to bring home growth and memories that will truly last them a lifetime. This very special place is about to embark on another summer journey. It will indeed be the best yet!

Newfound love and Watahataho,
Bonnie

Bonnie Bower, *Executive Director*

REUNION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

person.”

Adds Pam: “You can’t quite believe that returning to camp is going to be as nostalgic as you hope it will be. But it is! You come back to camp and it’s the same place. And that takes over your emotions a little bit.”

Pam and Kita are hoping that other alumni will feel that same profound connection to camp at this year’s reunion – from September 8 to 11 – which they are organizing together.

And by alumni, they mean everyone – anyone who’s at least 20 years old and who has attended any one of Newfound-Owatonna’s programs (Newfound, Owatonna, Family Camp, and Creativity Camp) or worked on staff. Kita and Pam are especially intent on reassuring those who are no longer practicing Christian Science that they are wanted and loved at camp.

“If you’re an alum,” Kita says, “this is your camp. Whatever path you’ve been on since then, this is where you went to summer camp. The love and support you felt as a kid are still here for you as an adult. This is where your friends are.”

Up to 200 old camp friends will be able to participate in this year’s reunion, which will include plenty of opportunities to revisit favorite camp activities.

“All of the activity areas will be open,” Kita explains. “People will be able to do whatever they want to do: waterski, bumper tube, sail, kayak, swim, play tennis. If they want to try a Big Float test just to see if they can still do it after all these years, they can. All just for the fun of it, of course.”

Alumni will also be able to take tours of both camps to see what has changed and what has stayed the same since they

last visited the shores of Long Lake. Other highlights will include a lobster dinner, a Friday night dance, and a fair amount of singing in the Dining Hall.

But most of all, guests will have plenty of time to reconnect with old friends – and make new ones.

It’s important to remember, Pam stresses, that not everybody at the gathering will know everybody else.

“People worry that they’re not going to fit in,” she explains. “You go back to this mentality of being 13 years old again. But it’s not like that. People also believe that no one would remember them. Au contraire!”

You’re connected here. Not just because you think you’re connected, but because this camp is connected to you. Your picture is on the wall in the Dining Hall. Camp is actually still part of all of us, whether we know it or not. – Kita King Mason

“You’d be surprised at how many people remember you,” Kita chimes in, recalling the two former campers who ran up to her at Reunion 2006 exclaiming, “You taught us to waterski!”

“These are the people you shared your childhood with,” says Kita, “the people who share your memories. There’s something very special about that.”



Pam Rupp Stroud with four of her CIT cabin-mates. From l to r: Robin Hersey Bach, Pam, Stefi Waloff Flanders, Debbie Slade Pierce, Deb Kellum Arnold.

Need help? Call Pam!

The best way to enjoy the reunion experience, say organizers Pam Rupp Stroud and Kita King Mason, is to gather a group of your old camp friends and share a cabin for the weekend.

Don’t know where your old camp friends are? That’s where Pam can help. Pam tracked down several of her own lost friends before the 2006 reunion using old camper lists, Google, and her phone. Now she’s prepared to do the same for anyone who might need assistance. Feel free to send Pam an email at knitwit44@yahoo.com if you need to make use of her investigative skills. (Be sure to put “Camp” in the subject line of your email).

And don’t forget to sign up yourself at www.newfound-owatonna.com so your old camp friends will know that you’re coming!

Think big!

MARY VILLOCH, Newfound Director

When is the last time you asked yourself, “Am I doing my best?” In your daily actions, do you regularly stop and think, “Did I give 100 percent? Was I as loving as possible? And was that really my best?”

Doing your best suggests an element of self-challenge. It requires disciplined action, includes no mediocrity or idleness, and ensures progress. This summer at Newfound, the campers and staff will be challenged to do their best and *think BIG!* This commitment will bring each of us a sense of dominion, peace, self-awareness, and outreach – which in turn generates healing.

Part of *thinking big* is the natural unfoldment of new ideas. One of several new activities that will be offered at Newfound this summer is photography.

Certainly, the addition of photography will bring fun and creativity, but let's take an even closer look at photography. Something we must do in order to get an accurate picture is to take off the lens cap and wipe the camera lens clean. The actual image is always in its truest form, it never changes. But, if the lens is dirty, we cannot see clearly.

Similarly, in order to do our best, we must wipe away any fear, doubt, or personal sense, and gain sight of the true picture. Isn't it comforting to know that the real doer and thinker is God? All we need to do is discipline ourselves to keep our camera lens clean and we will begin to see and think within divine consciousness.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote, “Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared

to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick” (*Science and Health*, p. 476).

To see man as Jesus did is to *think big* and to love and express that which is upright and good. With the phrase “freely ye have received, freely give” (Matt. 10:8) as the focal point of camp's metaphysical theme for the summer, we will challenge ourselves to see and share only that which is upright and good.

Whether taking photography literally or metaphorically, I am expecting campers and counselors to maintain pure thinking. More specifically, my aim is that Newfound provide an environment where doing one's best is valued, and young women continue to *think big* as they view man correctly, love one another, and give freely. The outcome is sure to be a camp full of healing, healers, and plenty of fun!



“freely ye have received, freely give”

join us in supporting Newfound and Owatonna's metaphysical theme for this summer

A summer (or 16) to remember

Forrest Bless may be Owatonna's new director, but he's not new to camp at all. He first arrived on the shores of Long Lake back in 1993, and spent seven years as a camper before joining the staff, where he served as a tennis instructor, rock wall and ropes course supervisor, and tripper. Most recently, Forrest spent five years as Owatonna's program director, and the past two years as Assistant Director.

We spoke with Forrest recently from his home in Saratoga, California – where he lives with his wife, Johanna – about all things Owatonna.

You first came to camp as a 9-year old. Was it a positive experience from the outset?

Yes, I loved it right away. Some of my favorite activities were canoeing, waterskiing, arts and crafts, and archery. I really enjoyed rock climbing on the new, rotating rock wall – a ten-foot tall vertical rock wall treadmill. Trips were another big part of my experience at camp. I hiked most of the local peaks, climbed up Jockey Cap boulder, went sailing on an America's Cup boat in Newport, RI, and biked all around Acadia National Park.

Another important aspect of my time at camp was cabin life. The friendships that I made with my cabin-mates and the



great example that each of my counselors set were the main reasons that I came back to Owatonna each summer.

You've also spent the past nine years on the staff at Owatonna. What has been the best part of that experience?

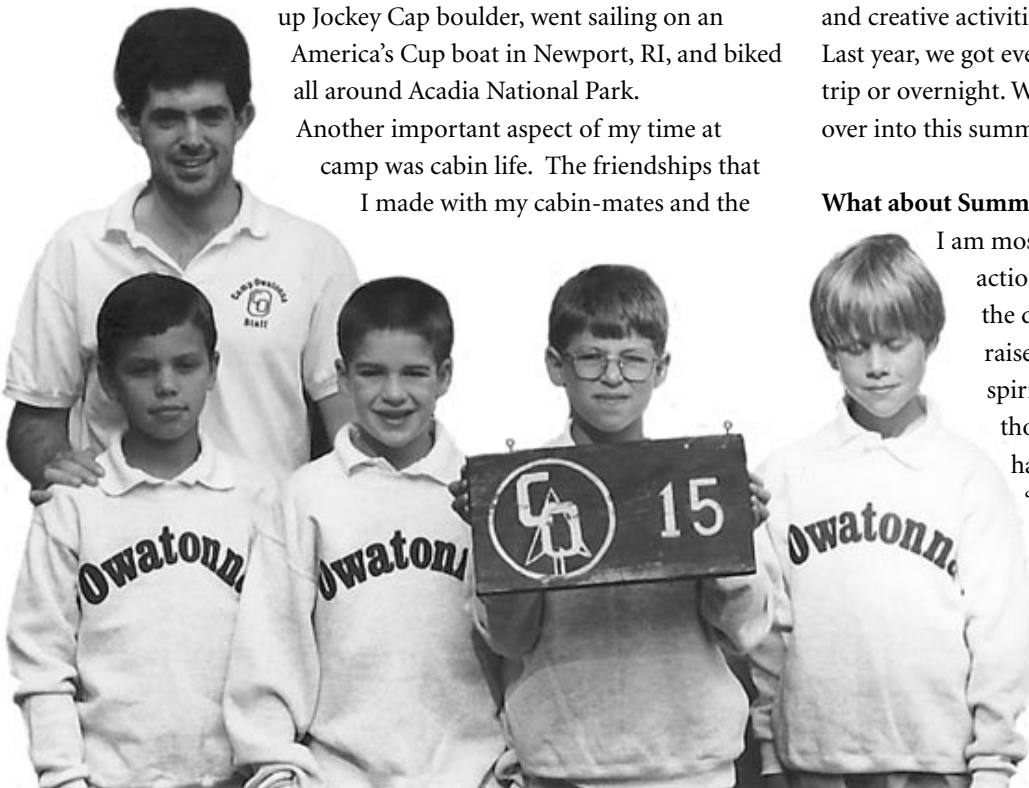
I love the growth that happens at camp. It is invaluable watching campers overcome limitations, try something new, make Christian Science their own, and build life-long friendships. Also, seeing other staff members learn more about themselves and gain a deeper understanding of Christian Science made a big impression on me. Camp is where I truly dedicated myself to the study and practice of Christian Science, and those first years on staff really shaped who I am today.

What do you have planned for this summer at Owatonna?

More of all the activities that we know and love - capture the flag, cabin nights, inter-camp games, flag trip, family nights, and more. Block afternoons have been a big hit, so we'll continue these fun and creative activities that help the campers improve their skills. Last year, we got every camper out of camp at least once on a day trip or overnight. We look forward to carrying that enthusiasm over into this summer with some new trips!

What about Summer 2011 are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to seeing the Christ in action this summer. In Matthew 10:8, Jesus gave us the direction to "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils." Daily, we witness spiritual healings, brotherly love, and principled thought. As our metaphysical theme for 2011, we have chosen his closing words in this passage, "freely ye have received, freely give." There is so much good that is ever-present, and what better opportunity to recognize this good and share it with others than at camp? It will be a very fruitful summer and we hope that the growth the campers experience allows them to share the Christ-spirit with others throughout the year.





What I learned on my summer vacation...

U.S. Army Sergeant Stephen Lewis spent seven summers at Camp Owatonna – six as a camper, and one as a CIT. Originally from North Andover, Massachusetts, Stephen is currently stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). A Signal Support Specialist – a sort of jack-of-all-communications, from tactical radios to computer networking – Stephen has served in the Army for six years, and has been deployed to Iraq twice. Recently, he shared his memories of camp, and his thoughts on how his time at Owatonna prepared him for the experiences to come.

I spent seven summers at Owatonna, from Scout to CIT, and would go back as a camper if I only could. Most of the experiences I had at camp, I could not have had anywhere else.

Two great aspects of the Owatonna experience were doing things like boating, playing sports and games you couldn't do in your

own neighborhood, and doing them with people outside your own neighborhood. I remember meeting campers and staff from all over the world, not to mention the country.

I got to go swimming, canoeing, windsurfing, and kneeboarding. I made and fired off rockets, learned archery, and climbed a rock wall. I wasn't great at all these things, but I did have the opportunity to do some things I was good at

LEFT: Stephen with his CIT cabin in 1999. Top l - r: Tyler Ragnow, Jesse Thompson, Brian Pierce. Middle: Dave Chase, Mike Vernon, Andrew Gorman, Nate Lane. Bottom: Stephan Von Malapert, Mark Youngblood, Stephen Lewis, Max Martina, Charlie Ronemus. RIGHT: Stephen while stationed in Iraq.

– like canoeing and street hockey – and was forced out of my comfort zone to try new things.

Cabin life formed bonds between friends that still last, and taught some or all of us lessons in living with others, sharing, and the importance of keeping oneself and one’s belongings clean and neat.

I distinctly remember that during my first year at camp, counselor Abe McLaughlin tried to get me to whine less -- a seemingly insurmountable task. He quoted, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord” (Ps. 100:1). It took many years, and my father and other camp counselors repeating that line over and over, but the idea finally got through to me. I understood that being negative brings down everyone, especially the whiner, and that serious issues can be discussed without people being negative.

The great outdoors

At camp, I learned to be comfortable in the outdoors, respect it, and enjoy it. Just walking through the woods every day, learning some camp craft, and going on trips gave me more experience in the outdoors than Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts did.

The trips were almost like the main event of camp. They were both an opportunity to have fun and to learn lessons. I learned to pay closer attention to counselors when I was briefly whisked downstream on the Saco River after swimming out too far. I learned about building fires and packing well, and the joy of pushing myself to reach a summit by sunset or sunrise. I learned about keeping younger campers entertained – how to stop whining and stop bothering each other – and about pushing their limits.

All of camp experience, to me anyway, culminated in the Council Fire. It is the event that had the most impact on me. All day Saturday we would look forward to it. We would gather as teams like bandits in the woods, bond, and prepare for Council Fire. Everyone wanted to be the one to represent his team in a competition of strength, speed, balance, memory, or eloquence. Everyone wanted to present the best team skit to the Grand Shaman, and everyone wanted to show courage and earn points for his team by sharing a story of value gained from camp experience. The solemn meeting gave real force and meaning to everything we did throughout the week – almost made it tangible.



Lessons for life

Learning that there are all types of people, and how they interact differently, has always been an asset to me, especially in the Army, where, like Owatonna, people come from all over – even other countries. Certainly, being pushed outside my comfort zone, while still having opportunities to excel, was another life changer. I would not have made it through my deployments without the ability to adapt and persevere (a word I learned for a council fire skit) in situations where I was not comfortable.

It’s been very hard to find the level of camaraderie I found in teams and cabins anywhere else, but by striving towards that level of commitment, I’m well suited for Army life. During both of my deployments, I was part of a small team of around 10 people, operating relatively outside or away from the larger force. I can’t help but think that spending those summers in a cabin with about eight other campers prepared me better than others to be in close quarters with a few people, all day every day.

The daily and weekly inspections at camp for cleanliness and hygiene were on par with Basic Training standards, but we worked towards getting our names on a plaque or being served special dessert. We achieved a level of cleanliness that’s quite amazing for kids, when compared to my Army experience. The respect for and enjoyment of the outdoors I gained at camp obviously has made Army training easier, although we don’t spend as much time in the woods.

The best vacation you've ever had

JOHN BOWER, Family Camp Director

The best vacation you've ever had? Yes, that was the goal when Family Camp at Newfound-Owatonna was started back in 1967!

In the parlance of football's Superbowl, this season will bring Family Camp XLIV. While the original goal was an ambitious one, it has been achieved for many, many families over the years.

"The best vacation you've ever had" remains the target for which the experienced, enthusiastic, welcoming Family Camp staff strives day in and day out. Whether you're on the water, on the soccer field, at the tennis courts, in the craft shop, or on a trip, we want you to have a fun-filled, relaxing, even uplifting time with your family and friends.

And this year, along with all of the usual daytime activities and evening events, we hope to bring some opportunity for "enrichment and achievement" for those of you who want to push the envelope in an area of interest.

If you haven't enrolled yet, we hope you will earnestly consider doing so, and that you might also encourage an additional family or church member to tag along. Bonnie and I are so looking forward to being back with Family Camp and to welcoming you and yours to the shores of Long Lake this August!



Heavenly program, *stellar reviews*

MICHELE PARSONS, Creativity Camp Director

How can you be sure that Creativity Camp at Newfound-Owatonna is an amazing experience? Try this: On the final day of last year's session, almost half of our 38 guests re-enrolled for this year – without even knowing what classes were going to be offered. Feedback doesn't get much more positive than that!

Our guests consistently tell us how much they love this invigorating week at camp – enjoying the crisp, sunny mid-September weather; exploring their creativity with professional, supportive teachers; and most of all, having fun. In fact, the only request we continue to get from returning guests is the

option of taking more than one class per week.

That's why we're happy to announce that this year, three of our six courses are being offered as half-day classes. This means that you can choose to take two of these workshops – one for mornings and one for afternoons. Or you can decide to immerse yourself in any of our six classes for the whole day long, and still find yourself surprised at how quickly the time has passed when the dinner bell rings.

I hope you'll join us this year for a week of exploration and enjoyment as we all discover infinite ways of expressing ourselves through the arts.

FULL-DAY CLASSES

BEGINNING PAINTING with Paul Trowbridge. This class is for anyone brave enough to accept the challenge to pick up a paintbrush and explore painting. The course will explore design elements such as line, shape, value, texture, and composition.

FINDING YOUR VOICE THROUGH DYNAMIC PAINTING with Brooks Anderson. This invigorating and fun course will bring out the best in the intermediate and advanced painter. We will discuss compelling design, composition, structure of a painting, layering techniques – all so integral to visual art.

PRINT SAMPLER with Susan Newbold. Discover the joys of printmaking by experimenting with several different methods. Polyester plates will be introduced to transfer original drawings, photographs, letters, and so much more onto prints.

FULL-DAY OR HALF-DAY CLASSES

(For the half-day option, choose two of the following – one for mornings, and one for afternoons.)

SOUL SONGS with Jennifer Foster. Come to a workshop custom designed to reinvigorate your concept of what it means to lift your voice in praise. Bring music of any style and / or spoken text to work with, as well as curiosity, a spirit of adventure, and your sense of humor.

THE ART OF STORYTELLING IN FILM with Will Fendon. This course is for anyone interested in creative writing and contemporary film. Using a variety of source materials such as screenplays, short stories, historical fiction, biographies, and Hollywood "coverage" reports, students will develop a deeper understanding of the narrative storytelling process.

SWING DANCING with Paul Paradis. The heart of swing dancing is developing a language of movement communicated through frame and connection, allowing for a spontaneous and improvisational interaction on the dance floor.

For more details about each class, for the impressive biographies of our teachers, or to enroll in a workshop, visit us online at: www.newfound-owatonna.com

Home-away-from-home improvement

Have you ever wondered what goes on at Newfound-Owatonna after all the campers have gone home?

That's when Facilities Head Peter Whitchurch and his staff work their maintenance magic on camp's nearly 100 buildings and 200 acres of grounds.

Before Summer 2010, for example, Pete and his crew prevented the Oaks – the bathroom building in Newfound's lower camp – from “sliding into the lake,” as Pete puts it, by installing a new foundation and raising the structure so it now sits at the same level as the shower house.

They built a new dock at Owatonna for teaching canoeing; created an open, welcoming deck in front of the camp business office; and helped to make Owatonna's newly renovated HQ – where the camp director lives and the senior staff works – more functional with built-in shelves, cabinets, desks, beds, bookcases, and window seats.



What was on the agenda for this year?

First, the maintenance crew completed the second stage of a four-phase overhaul of the road to Newfound, which had been worn down by many construction projects over the past few years and eroded by heavier than usual rains in 2008 and 2009.

Then they turned the underutilized exercise room/woodshop at Owatonna into a pavilion by taking down its block walls. The formerly unused building is now an open-air, covered space suitable for rainy day activities in the summer and vehicle storage in the winter.

Pete and Co. also put the finishing touches on the archery shed built by Owatonna's CITs last summer. The new shed is twice the size of its predecessor and much more functional, with an exterior closet for storage and enough room on the inside for staff to make repairs to equipment.

But the big project for Summer 2011 was Birches. Maintenance workers jacked up and leveled the foundation of the building, which serves as the camp nursing facility and home to its resident Christian Science nurse each summer.

They also reconfigured the interior to provide a more

Become a SUSTAINING FRIEND OF CAMP!



Quite simply, there would be no camp ... without you.

Through the generous support of people like you, Newfound-Owatonna makes up the difference each year between what participants pay for camp, and what it actually costs us to run our programs – an additional 35 percent!



When you become a monthly contributor, you provide us with a steady, reliable income that allows us to plan more effectively and make the most of donor dollars.



Left: Birches with the new deck and pergola. Top: The view of Owatonna's field from the deck. Above: French doors lead out to the deck from the living room.

functional treatment room, greater storage space, a master bedroom big enough to accommodate a visiting spouse, and more nooks for campers who need a quiet place to take a nap. They changed the entryway as well, incorporating a window and better placed, built-in desk, and opened up the living room with glass doors that provide access to a newly-built deck with pergola that wraps around the building.

“We’re trying to get another 5-10 years of use out of Birches,” explains Executive Director Bonnie Bower. “It’s all part of our effort to renovate rather than build whenever we can. We’re trying to use what we have – but make it functional for today’s need.”

Become a Sustaining Friend of Camp, and know that you’re helping to bring all the things you love about Newfound-Owatonna to a new generation of campers. Donate today at www.newfound-owatonna.com/donate

Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



4 Camp Newfound Road, Harrison, ME 04040-9987




NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT 822

BOSTON, MA

 Printed on Recycled Paper

Please recycle the *Call of the loon*.

Make a note of it

Come home to camp!

2011 Alumni Reunion

September 8-11

Newfound turns 95 and
Owatonna turns 55!



If you know any alumni who should be on the
camp mailing list, please contact us.

We want ALL alumni to come home to camp!
It's a weekend you won't want to miss.

info@newfound-owatonna.com

2011 Camp Program Dates

REGULAR CAMP PROGRAM

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1st session | June 25 – July 15 |
| Two-week session* | June 25 – July 9 |
| 2nd session | July 16 – August 12 |
| Full session | June 25 – August 12 |
| CIT | June 25 – August 12 |

* for new campers only, age 10 and under

OTHER PROGRAMS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Memorial Day Weekend | May 27 – 30 |
| Family Camp Week 1 | August 15 – 21 |
| Family Camp Week 2 | August 22 – 28 |
| Alumni Reunion | September 8 – 11 |
| Creativity Camp | September 12 – 18 |

Visit our website at www.newfound-owatonna.com