

the Founder Fire

SUMMER 2009 THE GREEN EDITION



American Youth Foundation
A Leader in Youth Development

Go For Green...Green For Go

BY DAN CASSIDY, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY

The past year has seen the American Youth Foundation begin the process of confronting the organization's impact on the environment. Our approach to becoming better stewards of the earth include efficient use of our current resources, as well as incorporating new technologies to achieve our annual goals for reduction of our carbon footprint. At the same time we will attempt to instill in our staff and participants a new respect for our environment that will translate to our activities within the AYF as well our every day life.

Carbon Footprint:

What is our current impact, also known as our Carbon Footprint? In 2007 we began the process of calculating the amount of CO₂ we emit through all our activities with in the organization. This is comprised of three primary activities. First, the fuels that we bring to our sites and burn for space heating, cooking, water heating, and powering our on site vehicles. Second, the electricity that we purchase at the sites for lighting, heating, and refrigeration as well as other activities that require power.

Lastly, the energy required for commuting, participant travel, air travel and disposal of various forms of waste. In total, the AYF generated 843.5 tons of CO₂ as a byproduct of doing business in 2008. We are fortunate to have large tracts of forest at both Miniwanca and Merrowvista, which serve to absorb or offset our carbon emissions. However, we are committed to reducing our footprint by 5% per year in the future. Through our focus on Renewable Energy, Recycling and Composting, and Energy Reduction we can demonstrate our efforts to reduce our footprint.

Recycling and Composting:

Programs and facilities have made a commitment to reduce/reuse/recycle now and in the coming years. ORT, a tradition in our food program, which stands for "Our Remaining Tidbits", seeks to reduce food waste. Composting of food scraps and biodegradable paper products further diverts material from our waste stream.

Recycling of paper, glass, plastics, aluminum, metals, cardboard, and e-waste (batteries, cell phones, computers) helps minimize trash and it reduces the demand for new raw materials.



Composting bins collect an average of six five-gallon buckets per day during peak program season.



Frame and sheathing of a new cabin are sawed from property trees using a portable band saw mill.

Energy Reduction:

One of our goals is to reduce our demand on energy. We hope to accomplish this by making changes in our daily behaviors. Increasing our awareness of energy efficiency is a simple and effective tool. Shutting off lights, unplugging unused IT equipment, reducing building temperatures during the heating season, and assessing our driving patterns will yield reductions in overall energy use.

We are also assessing our use of buildings. The intent is to shut down buildings during the heating season by adding antifreeze to plumbing and fire suppression systems or outright draining the water of certain buildings. Installation of programmable thermostats and increased levels of insulation in year-round buildings will also reduce energy consumption. At both camps we are in the process of removing ice machines from the dining halls. Programs will shift from the use of ice in beverages (much of which is poured down the drain after meals) to chilled beverage dispensers.

Renewable Energy:



Solar hot water panels on the Maintenance Building.

Use of renewable energy sources will reduce our demand on fossil fuels. We have initiated a number of projects to increase the use of renewable energy. These projects include the installation of solar hot water panels, a wood fired boiler, a pre-heat solar batch collector, as well as the increased use of skylights and other indirect natural lighting sources.

We have applied for funding to support additional projects this year, which include PV (photo-voltaic) panels and a demonstration wind turbine system. We are also in the process of seeking funds to convert our on site facility vehicles to solar/electric powered vehicles.

Becoming Part of the Solution

Anna Kay Vorsteg



Few settings are more beautiful and expressive than the shores of Miniwanca or the mountains of Merrowvista. Our camps in all their glory serve as graceful and gregarious advocates for the environment.

Please read and enjoy this issue of the *Founder Fire* if for no other reason than to insure that true value is mined out of the pulp, ink and energy it took to bring it to your door. Yes, read, enjoy and recycle when finished. Better yet, after reading, use it as gift wrap and then recycle. Put it to exhausted use, but dare not to put it in a landfill. I challenge you to get creative and in doing so, I welcome you to our Green Team.

We in the AYF have a long way yet to go in terms of examining our use of resources. However, as you will read in these pages, we are making healthy progress on our commitment to reduce our ecological footprint. At the same time we are striving to grow our “footprint” in terms of ethical behaviors and the education of self and others, as well as the number of children we serve. As we teach our youth to “Leave No Trace” when interfacing with the environment, we hope also to inspire them to leave their trace in the form of positive and caring behaviors for the good of others in their daily lives.

As a people we face very real concerns for our planet and for all species. It is impossible to ignore the link that exists between our use of resources and almost any issue; be it the economy, health and wellness, the environment, or unemployment, just to name an overwhelming few. And it is impossible to ignore the impact these concerns are having on the youth of this world. At times I find myself wanting to turn away from the data, as it is so very depressing. Yet, as I look out upon another program season surrounded not only by the green of the season, but even better, a motivated group of colleagues deemed the Green Team, I know we are capable of making good and measurable progress. Together we can find one solution at a time and, in most cases, we can help to address multiple issues through that very same action.

Our program team is working in very simple and significant ways to teach participants how to live and lead more responsibly at camp and at home. Few settings are more beautiful and expressive than the shores of Miniwanca or the mountains of Merrowvista. Our camps in all their glory serve as graceful and gregarious advocates for the environment. Our campers, far more glorious than our sites, stir well our hearts, reminding us of the beauty contained within every individual and the awesome value of every life. Our programs, our properties, our participants express again and again, why it is so important that we make big and little changes today for the sake of tomorrow.

Just think, if this season alone we will buy our corn from local farmers, it can help AYF and the farmers economically, put good and healthy food on the plates of our campers, lessen our impact on the environment by decreasing transport and storage needs, and in a small way, it can help to secure local employment. There has never been a greater incentive to do things differently with regard to our use of resources. New actions born out of new knowledge will better feed our bodies and our souls, and at the same time better sustain all people in all ways. If our combined negative impact has been profound, imagine what our combined positive impact will be.

Momentum is building (can you feel it?) and with it comes great hope as circles of people join together. All are striving to become a greater part of the solution rather than the problem. We can do this. Is this not why we are all here— to learn to live with purpose; to pursue being our own selves at our very best all the time? I hope that at Miniwanca, at Merrowvista, in all of our organizations and homes we will enjoy taking a few new steps this summer towards reducing our carbon footprint. As we say at camp, everyone will be “the winner”.

Hello summer! Hello Green! Yes, please pass me an ear of corn. No, forget the paper plate; just give it to me on that old *Founder Fire*. Thanks!



This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper using 100% vegetable-based ink.



Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.

Valuing The Simplicity of Camp

BY LIZ MARSHALL & LUKE PETSCH, GIRLS CAMP AND BOYS CAMP DIRECTORS, MINIWANCA

As the waves rise on Lake Michigan and the days are beginning to warm, we feel the energy of camp begin to build. Soon campers and families will enter through our gates, carrying pillows, backpacks, and bags of their dearest possessions. Campers will also bring their hopes and expectations as they drive down Stony Lake Road. Every year, there are cheers and cries of excitement as campers recognize old friends and catch sight of cabin leaders who look on with much enthusiasm and anticipation. For all of us, this moment marks the beginning of something amazing: our summer journey of exploration, adventure and growth.

It is truly inspiring to watch these vibrant faces return to Miniwanca, taking the next steps of the challenge to live at their best. Many of last summer's Junior Tribal Leaders are returning to be part of the largest group of Explorers in recent history. Our rugged Voyageurs will return to take on the final challenge of the Odyssey bike trip. Many campers are making the transition to serve camp in the capacity of Leaders in Training. It is just as exciting to see the arrival of so many brand new campers who have decided to take the dare, to branch out and to become part of a community based on growth and mutual support.

Amid all of this progress, the core of camp remains the same—to create an environment where all are encouraged to grow. We have always valued the simplicity of spending a few weeks at camp, living “unplugged” from the gadgets that become so central to our everyday lives at home. It takes us a few days to make the shift. But what we've seen at camp is that once we truly step away, it is such a relief to be in a place where we can focus completely on the people and the natural world around us. We are rediscovering the joy of taking a walk on the beach or laughing



Girls Camp pipers enjoy the fun and competition of July 4th celebrations.

with friends in a silly game of tag in the hollow. We are discovering that it is possible to see all living things with reverence, feeling the awe of our place on the earth and our connection to each other and to all the amazing life in the universe.

This summer we have exciting news about taking another step forward in our commitment to live simply on the earth:

Miniwanca has been accepted as a pilot site in a prestigious national program developed by the American Camp Association, called *Camp 2 Grow!* This new partnership will bring new activities and ideas to our *Make A Difference Day* as well as our ongoing interest groups. Campers will have the chance to learn more about how they can develop their own capacities for leadership while making positive change in the environment and the world around us. Our connections with *Camp 2 Grow* will support campers in the Chicago area to reconnect with their camp learning in the off season. It will allow them to truly transfer their new awareness and strengths back to home and school.

Our Boys Campers will look to build upon their connection to the outdoors through their “*Day in the Woods!*” Each camper will be given an opportunity to develop the outdoor skills that have served our Four Trails campers so well.

They will learn to pack gear, set up their own camp site, and cook their own food, all while continuing to develop the supportive and positive communities that are characteristic for Miniwanca. The “Leave No Trace” ethics that campers learn allows them to appreciate the majesty of the world we live in and the great responsibility we have to maintain it.

We are thrilled to see so many campers returning to Miniwanca and for them to reconnect with what is most important in their lives: caring friendships and life lived in a way that sustains the growth and development of our whole community. As the opening Council Circle fire draws us together, we will remember what has brought us here and we will delight in the precious summer days that we are so blessed to spend together.



Boys campers take a break from the friendly competition of tribal games before jumping back into the action.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. This will save 10 gallons a day, a person. For a family of four, that is 14,400 gallons per year.



During one camp season we could save 103,800 gallons of water!



Celebrating 85 Years of NLC BY ADAM RUSSELL

This coming summer the National Leadership Conference (NLC) is looking forward to celebrating its 85th year of programming with the youth of our world. As I continue to meet the supporters of this program, including past and present staff, volunteers and alumni, as well as current and future participants, I am in awe of the amazing experiences this program has provided. Over 30,000 young people have ventured through our gates over this time span and there are countless stories that routinely surface about the impact the NLC has had on individuals and communities.

2009 promises to continue this tradition, even in the face of the global economic situation. Inquiries for the NLC are coming in daily and new and returning participants are getting registered for the August 7 start date. If you know high school students who might be interested or who might benefit from this experience, encourage them to apply. More than that, I challenge you to take concrete steps to support their effort to attend: write them a letter, help with a fundraiser, have them over for dinner to talk about the life-changing impact this program has, or give a ride to camp or the airport. Just as we tell our participants: there is no positive action too small and no positive consequence too large.



Pioneer Boys Village working together at the Team Challenge.

Seeds for Change

BY KRIS LIGHT, DIRECTOR OF CAMP PROGRAMS, MERROWVISTA

I have realized since returning to New Hampshire that it is impossible to separate the mission and the values of Merrowvista from the 600 acres of pristine New England woodlands that serve as its setting. We are blessed to have the Ossipee Mountains as the stage on which we inspire young people to live with passion and to do great things with their lives. Our natural environment is deeply entwined with the culture that we create. It is not just mountains, forests, lakes, and trees. It is our home, whose presence and influence can be felt in every lesson, friendship, and memory that is carried away with each camper and staff who spend a season here.

The changing of seasons brings all of this to light. Any person, who has had the opportunity to witness this great shift, can't help but feel a part of them transitioning as well.

Spring has arrived slowly from beneath the retreating blanket of snow that covered the land

through the colder months. Trees now flaunt their new leaves, bright and fresh. The birds' amorous songs hit the ear wherever you go on site, bringing the first notes of music back from the silence of winter.

A change in attitudes parallels the change in season. It isn't really so strange that as the leaves unfurl, we begin to roll out our new plans and ideas for the summer camp season ahead. It seems fitting that as the beavers and chipmunks wake from their slumber and begin to spruce their homes, so too do we begin the process of re-opening buildings, clearing trails, and constructing new cabins. There is logic to why the return of feathered friends coincides with the return of founder friends in school programs and early arriving summer staff.

We have always strived to teach children to live in balance with their natural surroundings. To live green may not always have been the lingo, but the message has always existed in the mission of the AYF. Campers may spend the rest of their year being bombarded with sound bites of the new green ethic, but at camp they see it and live it, often times without even realizing it.

If we are to truly meet the objectives of our mission, it is essential that we provide our children with the tools to not only acknowledge their achievement in living sustainable lives, but also to provide a message and a plan to take with them back to their own communities. We need to teach them how to continue to feel that connection back at home, and how to inspire others to feel the same.

Our staff has dedicated their time to finding ways we can improve the quality of our daily operations. These are simple steps, including the compilation of a resource guide to local organic farmers and significantly reducing junk mail. We have also addressed how we can improve the way we talk to campers about

being green. This summer, new signage all over the facility will alert campers to the simple things they are already doing at camp that help our environment. Furthermore, campers will utilize village discussion times to talk about how they can carry the good habits they have developed at camp into their lives at home and school. They will be encouraged to spread their knowledge to their friends and family, and will be empowered to see themselves as seeds for change in their local communities. It is the same basic principles that we apply to all other elements of our program; encouraging our youth to see themselves as capable enkindled spirits set loose in the world to inspire others to be their best selves.

Sometimes it sounds like small steps, and sometimes there is a tendency to look for the grand gesture that we can make as an organization. But that is not what we do best. We work best with one child at a time, using our compassionate and caring staff to help our campers realize their potential. We put our faith in those young people to move forward, to make good choices for themselves, and do great things with all their newfound confidence. This is the method that will effectively transfer the ideals of simplicity instilled at Merrowvista, and the process through which our campers will help create a greener future.



Girls Explorer Village overlooking Dan Hole Pond from the ledge.

Join Us For Summer Seminars For Women - July 22-26, 2009 at Miniwanca

Women of all ages will gather for the 22nd year of "SSW." This year we will explore "The Power of Story" as it relates to balanced living through discussion, communal living and experiential activities. Three exceptional women will share their professional expertise as they lead us through aspects of "Four Fold Balanced Living" in our morning seminars.

Day 1: **The Power of Story:** **Everyone's Got a Story. What's Yours?**

Facilitator: Laura McAllister

At the heart of "story" lies a connection between people willing to open up, to exchange wisdom, to talk about the questions that matter, and to learn from the experience of others. We will focus on the dual roles of sharing and listening in the storytelling relationship. We'll share our time, our ears and our stories with each other and with the Girls Camp seniors. We'll create a recorded archive of our collective story and honor the incredible range of voices. We will discover that "listening is an act of love."

Day 2: **The Power of Story:** **"Until We Meet Again"**

Facilitator: Joan Korenblit

Through discussion about the heroine, Manya, in the book "Until We Meet Again", we'll explore what we value most in our own lives and we'll include journaling through the art of poetry. The culmination will be a collaborative and thought provoking work of art that (perhaps) will be displayed at the 9th annual Respect Diversity Symbol Exhibit at the Science Museum Oklahoma.

Day 3: **The Power of Story:** **No Words Needed, Sometimes**

Facilitator: Linda Slagell

*"Watch what you do to know who you are."
This quote from River of Fire by Helen Prejean will help us develop the idea of intentionally "living our story". We will explore the AYF four-fold philosophy as we examine personal vision, life's milestones (and cornerstones), actions and deeds that reflect our best selves, and necessary adaptations as we move through the cycles of life.*

For information and registration materials: www.ayf.com, listed under "Conferences" or jdschantz@aol.com.

Earth Wise Programs

BY ANNA ROBILLARD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PROGRAMS, MERROWVISTA

When I think back to my childhood, some of the most vivid and meaningful memories revolve around time spent outside in nature. Those moments helped me to learn more about myself and my place in the world. I was able to reflect and have time set aside to learn the intricacies of nature while developing my own self. My hope is that students coming to Merrowvista during our Community and School Programs (CSP) will have the opportunity to be “their own self, at their very best, all the time” while connecting with the natural world.

Recognizing that many youth are spending less time outside and more time indoors or in structured activities gives us inspiration and an incentive to weave an environmental focus into the objectives for school programs. The mission of the AYF gives children an avenue to be in a safe environment where they can learn about themselves and the world around them. What an opportunity we have, to not only focus on “best self” and “balanced living” with the individual and the group, but also in relation to the natural world. “How can we be our “best selves” with the environment? How can we as individuals live a balanced life that will help sustain the web of life?” These are examples of questions that we continue to ask the students. Through the process of asking the children, I also make sure to ask myself these same questions.



Two 6th Grade students are journaling about their findings as part of the wetland ecology block.

We are developing many new initiatives that revolve around greening our program. The “Lone Inspector”, who checks for cleanliness of cabins during our summer camp program, has transformed into an “Earth Inspector” who looks for signs that our community has the environment in mind when making decisions or taking action. Examples of these actions include closing doors when the heat is on, shutting off lights, turning off the water while brushing teeth, and picking up trash around camp. The students wait in excitement and anticipation while listening for the next Earthwise update. **“I can’t wait to get home and help my family learn how to be Earthwise”** and “will the earth inspector visit us again today?” are words heard from 5th graders of the Ossipee Central School. It is inspiring to interact with students who have become motivated to make a positive change in the world.

Other examples of how CSP is moving forward with greening efforts include educational signage placed around the facility teaching us about water conservation, energy use and recycling. Our Environmental Activity Blocks have both exploratory and science components that meet state curriculum standards in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. When teaching about the ORT report (food waste at the end of each meal) we make sure to mention the amount of energy that goes into each food item that is being thrown away. Using an experiential approach to environmental education helps us to focus on the growth of the group and the individual, while learning more about our surroundings and how we can take better care of our planet.

During the closing council of a school program, I often tell a story about a group of animals that lived in a strong, functional community. Over time, the community starts to fall apart and the animals are no longer getting along. The leader of the village decides to take away the daylight and have the animals live in darkness. During the process of problem solving the issue, the animals re-establish the values connected with a successful community. This story sends the message regarding the importance of getting along and not taking resources for granted, while also encouraging us to think about our community being bigger than just the human community. If we can begin to think beyond the human world, and visualize the way our actions impact other species, the concept of living a balanced life will broaden.

One of the many things that I love about working with children is how open they are to new ideas. Endless curiosity and an attempt to make sense of the world result in an ability for students to be hopeful and optimistic for the future. As we all work together to balance the web of life, I truly hope that we can remember to maintain a curiosity and a sense of wonder regarding the natural world. One of the ways that we can do this is to let children and nature be our teachers. Questions that children have asked, such as “why does the turtle have a shell on its back?” or “why does the wind blow?” have caused me to think about my “own self”, and how I can be “my very best” when interacting with both people and the environment around me.



School students exploring the beaver dam area during the wetland ecology block.

New Initiatives

BY ADAM RUSSELL,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
SCHOOL PROGRAMS MINIWANCA

Miniwanca’s Community and School Programs continue to work closely with our local communities. School administrators, teachers and parents see the intrinsic value of our programs and the impact it has on their students. This has resulted in a few new partnerships with diverse client groups.

In partnership with our local Shelby School District, we will be launching the first **Leadership Camp for Elementary Students (LCES)** from August 31 through September 4, 2009.

The 60 students selected for this program will be an accurate representation of the school’s population across all ethnic, social and academic spectra. Its concept is to create a new cohort of students within the school through the tools that camp has to offer. The goals are to increase self confidence and to introduce new subgroups of students to each other. The hypothesis is that when potentially academically and socially marginalized students are brought together and are given the opportunity to achieve success in a new, supportive cohort, these relationships and the increased self confidence will translate into higher test scores. **Fred Osborn**, principal of Thomas Read Elementary in Shelby, is working closely with our full-time program staff to develop a Positive Youth Development curriculum that will achieve these goals.



Students learning fire building skills in the survival activity block.



Nudge your thermostat up 2 degrees in the summer and down 2 degrees in the winter to withhold another 2,000 lbs of carbon dioxide.



Activity Team on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Middle Schoolers Learn To Be Leaders

Excerpt from: Oceana's Herald Journal (November 27, 2008)

Hart and Shelby middle school students gained valuable experience during the American Youth Foundation's Michigan Middle School Leadership Initiative at Camp Miniwanca, November 6-9, 2008. Both schools were sponsored by the Gerber Foundation, said Hart Middle School teacher and student council advisor Dave DuMonte. Gerber paid \$2,000 for each school to attend.

Eight schools participated in the conference, and 10 students and one advisor, counselor or teacher from each school attended. "It really focused on teaching kids skills such as cooperative learning," DuMonte said. A major component of the initiative was for each school group to develop a plan to help their community. The Hart kids came up with the idea of providing Christmas dinners for the needy, while the Shelby students developed a recycling project for their school building.

"It was just incredible," said Shelby Middle School counselor Laura Sly. "Miniwanca is doing a lot with us locally." The Shelby students named their program, "Project Green," Sly said. The Hart students are going to be boxing up Christmas dinners and having canned food drives to help out local low income families. The students will be displaying flyers around town in an effort to get donations for their cause, DuMonte said. "The kids set a goal to have 50 box dinners that we're going to provide.

The students are in the process of raising funds toward the project. One fundraiser already in the works is an activity night at the school, in which students can watch movies, play basketball and volleyball, and participate in other organized activities. Those who attend will pay admission or donate a canned good.

"They learned skills of leadership and how to form a consensus among the group," DuMonte said. The students from Hart who went are seventh and eighth grade student council members. Two of the student council members who could not attend were replaced by two students selected by staff, DuMonte said. Each school had a different process for selecting students, he explained. In addition to Hart and Shelby, the other schools that participated were Ludington, Whitehall, Montague, Muskegon's Steele Middle School, Orchard View and Kenowa Hills.



Group of Shelby students debriefing their team challenge experience.

Every day at the camp was action-packed, DuMonte said. Students were busy from the time they woke up at 7 a.m. until they went to bed at 10:30 p.m. The kids branched off into community group sessions in the morning and returned in the afternoon for school group sessions. Campers sat down to a family-style dinner, eating with their respective community groups. Students assisted with washing dishes and other chores following dinner.

Most group sessions focused on team building activities. Many of the school group sessions centered on organizing the community improvement plan. Each school group presented their plan during the final day of the camp. The Hart students presented a humorous skit.

"The outcome of this is that hopefully we can improve our school and our community," DuMonte said. "Their theme is 'Change the World,' and that's kind of the theme of the Michigan Middle School Leadership Initiative."

This was the first-ever leadership initiative, DuMonte said. "This is something that hopefully we will continue to do," he said. "I'd like to see some sixth graders involved next year."



Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour. Most of them are thrown away.

Join the St. Louis Friends of AYF

Many things are afoot at the AYF St. Louis office. The Friends of AYF group would like to invite anyone interested to join us at our monthly meetings and outings. The Friends group is for **everyone** and we are here to support the mission and vision of the AYF. It is a great way to support the AYF whether you have been, or still are, involved with any of our programs or not. You can help out with the Archives, the I Dare You/Leadership Awards, Community Service, or Fundraising.

Our next meeting will be set for an evening in July at the St. Louis office. If you are interested in joining us or would just like some additional information please call the St. Louis office at 314-963-1321 or you can email Colleen at ccronin@ayf.com or Debi at dsittner@ayf.com.

We look forward to seeing you in July!



Friends of AYF volunteers Beth Wilson and Debi Sittner (right) at the May 2009 AYF Golf Tournament.

Memorials

● **Ernest Linwood Ohle Junior (OB '34)**, age 91, passed away on April 27, 2009 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was born December 17, 1917 in St. Louis, Missouri. Ernie received AB and MS degrees in geology from Washington University. He received his MA from Harvard University in 1941, followed by a PhD after the war in 1950.



Ernie and Martha Lee Pearman Ohle, his wife of 55 years, shared a love of exploring the out of doors, spending years with tent campers and motor homes traveling throughout the United States. For many years they jointly lead a Girl Scout troop with dear friends in Rocky River, Ohio. After their children left home, they were often found at Camp Miniwanca in Stony Lake, MI for the summers. Ernie had attended this American Youth Foundation camp as a teenager and his family shared in his love of this special place. Martha managed the Craft House and Ernie taught about the geology and ecology of the dunes on the shores of Lake Michigan. In the 70's and 80's they lead Elderhostels together and shared with campers their belief in the balanced way of living taught by the camp. In

addition to their positive influence on young and old campers, they also leave a tangible tribute to their spiritual belief - The Martha and Ernie Ohle Interfaith Center at Miniwanca. After Martha's death, Ernie moved to Colorado Springs to live with his son and family. He was delighted by the coincidences that lead him to Ann James and First Congregational United Church of Christ which enriched his later years immeasurably.

Ernie made a significant contribution to the earth sciences as an exploration and research geologist. He was internationally esteemed as the prime world authority on world-wide Mississippi-Valley-type lead-zinc deposits, and was a distinguished scientist. He often described his work as a geologist as being on a treasure hunt. Ernie worked for the American Zinc Company in Mascot, TN and later for St. Joseph's Lead Company in Bonne Terre, MO. In 1957, Ernie and family relocated to the upper peninsula of Michigan where he was Chief Geologist and Vice President of the Copper Range Company. Ernie worked for the Hanna Mining Company in Salt Lake City supervising 30 geologists active in production and exploration throughout the world. He became a consulting geologist in 1972 and served as a visiting professor at University of Texas and later as Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona. He remained an active member of the Society of Economic Geologists for 58 years.

Ernie is survived by his partner of six years, Ann James of Colorado Springs, CO; daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Allan Green of Cambridge, MA; son and daughter-in law, Ernest L. Ohle III and Carol of Colorado Springs, CO; daughter and son-in-law Carolyn Ohle and Todd Cooper of Charlottesville, VA; and daughter, Elizabeth Ohle of St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada; and by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A service of remembering was held at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Colorado Springs on April 30, 2009. A memorial service will be held on July 17, 2009 at Camp Miniwanca. Memorial contributions may be made in Ernie's memory to the American Youth Foundation.

How to Donate to AYF

- Send your check or money order (made payable to the American Youth Foundation) to:
American Youth Foundation
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 102
St. Louis, MO 63144
- Call the Advancement Office at (314) 963-1321 to donate using your major credit card (*Visa, MC, Discover, or American Express*)
- Donate online at **www.ayf.com** by visiting the: "How Can I Help" page
- To give marketable securities/stocks to AYF, please instruct your financial institution or broker to transfer securities to:
(Please call (314)963-1321 or email adevereux@ayf.com to let us know that you are making a donation of securities)
TIAA-CREF Trust Company
DTC Participant Number: 2039
Institution Number: 78429
Agent Bank ID#: 94952
Interested Party ID#1: 52587
Agent Internal STC A/C: 881167202
Agent Internal Account #: 11129-C
For the account of The American Youth Foundation



2009 Calendar AYF Events

AYF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Miniwanca: August 7-14

MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Miniwanca: November 2009

SUMMER SEMINARS FOR WOMEN
Miniwanca: July 22-26

ALUMNI AND FAMILY WEEKEND
Merrowista & Miniwanca
Labor Day Weekend

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL
Miniwanca: TBA

For 2009 summer camp program options and dates, please visit www.ayf.com.



90% of energy used when washing clothes is from heating the water. Use cold water and full loads to save energy and 500 pounds of CO2.

● **Claire L. Piesbergen (nee Lampertz)**, passed away Thursday, April. 30, 2009. Beloved wife of the late Donald H. Piesbergen; mother of Steven (Frances), Keith (Linda), Kent (Kathryn) and the late Trudy Piesbergen; grandmother of Kellie, Stephanie, Michael, Natalie, Christopher, Stephanie, Brittany, Ryan and Nina; great-grandmother of Katelyn, David, Alyssa and Arianna.

A memorial visitation was held at Kutis Affton Chapel, Gravois on May 4, 2009 followed by a private interment. Donations may be sent in memory of Claire Piesbergen to the American Youth Foundation.

The American Youth Foundation (AYF)

is a national, not-for-profit youth development organization with regional centers in Michigan and New Hampshire, and a development and alumni relations office in St. Louis, Missouri.

AYF Advancement
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St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 963-1321
FAX (314) 963-9243
Web Site: www.ayf.com
e-mail: advancement@ayf.com

AYF inspires people to discover and develop their personal best, to seek balance in mental, physical, social and spiritual living and to make a positive difference in their communities and the wider world.

AYF Merrowvista
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AYF is an equal opportunity employer committed to ensuring that staff and participants come from diverse backgrounds.

AYF Miniwanca
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Can you help us identify the people in these photos?

If you know these happy campers, contact (314) 963-1321 or email advancement@ayf.com.

Merrowvista Boys Camp