



# Birch Pond Beacon

May 2008

Casco, Maine

## Ready, Set, Go!

Memorial Day brings with it the unofficial start of summer. It also means that camp begins in just about a month! Campers and staff are getting excited about Netop...the friendships, activities, songs, traditions, Birch Pond, trips, skits, campfires, tribal games, inter-camp games, starry nights and more. We welcome our returning campers along with many new ones. Who will be the first camper to learn everyone's name and home state and win a Netop Sundae?



*Campers get set for the 50 yard dash during the tribal meet between the Mohawks & Apaches*

## Cool facilities projects

Some exciting improvements are underway or planned at camp this summer:

- New rock band center (see photo)
- New tennis practice backstop
- New reading/game area in Lodge
- Renovated craft house/wood shop
- New waterfront lifeguard tower
- Three new sports storage sheds



*Netop's new rock band facility will be set in place next to the "Taj Mahal" building in center field*

## Introducing...the 2008 staff!

We could not be more pleased with our staff for this summer. A seasoned group of returning staff is joined by some new additions and former campers.

### *The Counselors*

**Alex Colby** – Ft. Collins, Colorado; attends Bowdoin College in Maine; swimming, soccer, ultimate frisbee, hiking

**David Daddio** – Washington, D.C.; works for the Trust for Public Land organization; trip leader, hiking, woodsman, sailing

**Scott Dittmore** – Endwell, NY; attends Canisius College in NY; swimming, lacrosse, conditioning

**Andrew Hallowell** – Maple Glen, PA; attends U. of Maryland.; basketball, guitar, soccer, conditioning, fly fishing

**Tim Hallowell** – Maple Glen, PA; recent graduate of U. of Wisconsin; soccer, basketball, guitar, trip leader, tennis

**Paul Hawkins** – Silver Spring, MD; attends Colorado College in CO; basketball, soccer, fly fishing, conditioning

**Geoff Hester** – Rochester, MI; attends Western Michigan University; baseball, leathercraft, canoe/kayak, volleyball

**Tommy Hester** – Silver Spring, MD; attends Williams College in MA; baseball, basketball, fly fishing, soccer

**Silas Leavitt** – Gray, ME; will attend U. of St. Andrews in Scotland; archery, digital photography, drama, hiking, boating

**Colby Morgan** – Hamilton, MA; attends Tabor Academy in MA; drama, singing, baseball, hockey, boating

**Matt Noe** – Fort Washington, PA; attends Upper Dublin HS; soccer, lacrosse, swimming, conditioning

**Matt Taylor** – Fort Washington, PA; attends Upper Dublin HS; basketball, tennis, swimming, boating, volleyball, golf



Matt Taylor & David Daddio

### **The Work Staff**

Our work crew keeps the place running, while assisting counselors and having fun.

**Matt Dittmore** – Endwell, NY; Seton Catholic Central HS; swimming, lacrosse

**Sarah Hallowell** – Maple Glen, PA; Upper Dublin HS; basketball, guitar, soccer

**Kaleem Jones** – Brooklyn, NY; Packer Collegiate; basketball, conditioning

**Brad Peirce** – Chester, NY; Warwick Valley HS; baseball, swimming, football

**Alexi Thomakos** – Athens, Greece; attends Bowdoin College; soccer, guitar, singing

### **The Rest of the Team**

- *Directors:* Mike Griffin, Steve Hallowell
- *Nurses:* Brooke Hayes, Beth Hallowell
- *Facilities:* Rob Hale
- *Food Service:* Jon Carlson, Norma Johnson, Terry MacDonald

### **Netop Friends Fund scholarships**

Thanks to many generous donations to the Netop Friends Fund, we are able to offer scholarships to several deserving campers this summer. It is a wonderful tribute to the positive feelings about Netop by our alumni and friends. Tax deductible contributions for 2008 are still being accepted; gifts may be made to: ACA Scholarship/Netop.

### **Netop Nuggets – News & More**



**New Netop Web Store** – A wide range of new Netop apparel (shirts, shorts, sweats, hats) is available for purchase online; just visit [www.netopsummercamp.com](http://www.netopsummercamp.com) and look for the link to the web store.



**Baldo on Conan O'Brien!** – Our own Craig Baldo (alum/counselor) was a guest in May on the Conan O'Brien show on NBC. Baldo did a great stand-up comedy routine!



**People come from near & far** – Netop's geographic reach continues to expand as campers and staff this year are coming from many parts of the U.S. (CO, CT, MD, ME, MA, MI, OH, NH, NJ, NY, PA, Wash DC), plus Spain, France and Greece.



**Sports conditioning** – For athletes looking to improve their speed, strength and agility in preparation for school sports, Netop is offering a new sports conditioning activity.