

# CAMP CHATTER



ISSUE

WINTER 2023

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Hartford County 4-H Camp Summer Staff of 2022

## DUEL CAMP DIRECTORS - SUMMER 2023

Did you hear? Jenn Paragone and Lis Diemer will be splitting the role of Camp Director this summer! Jenn and Lis met in 1997 (Jenn was the Arts and Crafts instructor and Lis was a camper) and they have remained good friends ever since. To learn more about the two, Nadia Wentzell, Associate Camp Director, sat them down for an interview... or, as camp people call it, played "Hot Seat!"

Nadia: Jenn and Lis you have so much in common, you are moms, primary school teachers, and now you'll both be directors! Let's see what else. When did you start coming to Hartford County 4-H Camp?

Jenn: I started in 1988 as a camper! My friend talked me into going. I loved it so much, I went back every year. My camp friends and I became pen pals when we weren't at camp. This was way before cell phones and we were toll calls. There was nothing better than a letter during the school year with a friendship bracelet from a camp friend!

Lis: My first summer was 1993 and I came with one friend from town. The next summer, I returned with a cabin's worth of girls for the

“Two- Weeker” session and we just kept coming back. I can’t stop coming to camp!  
Nadia: What roles have you had at camp and which was your favorite?

Lis: I was a camper, teen counselor, a 2003 staff member- where I taught street hockey and newspaper and was the Girls’ Cabin Coordinator, then I took a few summers off. When I returned I was the Associate Camp Director, then the Director. I stopped when I had my son, Dylan, but joined the Board of Trustees. My favorite role of them all was probably being a counselor because you went ALL in for the kids. You are only at camp for a week or two so you have to make the most of it and, you know, you have that teenage energy to withstand it!

Jenn: I was a camper, counselor and staff member in the summer of 1997. I taught Arts and Crafts. Years later after college, starting my career in education, getting married and having 3 boys, I became a board member. I am now the Camp Director. I think being the Camp Director is my favorite. I love seeing the “magic” of camp on the faces of campers, counselors, and staff. I am proud to be a part of Hartford County 4-H Camp.

Nadia: What are you looking forward to this summer?

Lis: To help create lifelong memories and friendships for this summer’s campers, counselors and staff! Specifically, ridiculous memories that can only happen at our camp. I mean, look at Jenn and me, friends for over 20 years because of HC4-H Camp.

Jenn: I am looking forward to seeing the smiles on the faces of campers. All the work behind the scenes during the off-season can be exhausting, but it is well worth it when you see how happy campers are to be at camp!

I am also looking forward to the food! This summer, us delicious meals! The food is going to be epic!

Nadia: What is your most embarrassing camp moment?



*Jenn at a teen weekend in 1996, standing next to her future husband. Lis’s son, Dylan, a mini camper in 2022. Now he gets to be a traditional camper.*

Camp hired a kitchen company to create and serve Jenn: Wet Battle of the Bands is one of my favorite programs. While I was watching it one week, a dock spider crawled over my foot. Out of nowhere, I screamed in front of the whole camp. Luckily, Grant saved the day and took care of the spider for me. I was so embarrassed that I screamed in the middle of the program!

Lis: There are SO many! But one night we were heading from Baldwin Hall, down the hill towards the pond to Vespers, and I walked smack into the flag-pole. I was trying to be cool and funny with the new people I was with and then BAM!

Nadia: and lastly what is your favorite moment with me?

Jenn: the stinky Cheese Prank

Lis: you performing a dance Routine.

## CAMPERSHIPS

Thanks to our camp families’ generosity, the summer of 2022 started with an unprecedented \$15,932 in the Campership Fund!! With this money, we were able to support 1 horse camper and 15 campers for traditional sessions. The Campership Fund provided \$6555 towards memorable summers filled with smores and laughter. The campers came from all over Connecticut.

Additionally, this past summer, the Mark Kibby’s Memorial Scholarship Fund sponsored three campers from the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary School in Rocky Hill. The Scholarship Fund was created to help children who Mr. Kibby, the former assistant principal, touched through his passion and love for teaching. The recipients of this scholarship were children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors and sense of community and belonging that camp offers.





### SUMMER FOOD SERVICE

Makeover time! Food makeover that is.... Hartford County 4-H Camp has heard your feedback that our kitchen needed some new ideas and has partnered with a vendor, Wolfoods, to let food professionals be the experts they are, while getting our kid-focused staff out of the kitchen and back to the activities. We will have Wolfoods working in the kitchens and dishroom of Baldwin Hall in summer 2023, after following the same rigorous hiring and background check requirements as all staff, and staying in a slightly renovated Grant House. Wolfoods ([wolfoods.com](http://wolfoods.com)) has a long track record of helping summer camps meet dietary fundamentals such as healthy proteins, fresh fruits, vegetables and grains, as well as supporting any dietary restrictions, so all are included. And there will still be bug juice, because it wouldn't be camp without it, so plan for some surprises and plenty of old favorites.

Please reach out at registration where indicated, so we can incorporate your child's dietary needs with Wolfoods for the summer. We also look forward to your feedback throughout, so that we can ensure this new relationship meets the needs of our campers and staff.

I have a conviction that a few weeks spent at a well organized summer camp may be of more value educationally than a whole year of formal school work.

Charles William Eliot 1834-1926  
American Educator, Poet  
President of Harvard University

## Calling all teens - We are accepting applications for our Teen Leadership Program!

If you have a love for the outdoors, enjoy working as part of a team, and want to make a positive impact on campers, this might be a perfect fit. Our Teen Counselors are volunteers who supervise campers in cabins, assist Staff with activities and tribe responsibilities for one week of overnight camp. Counselors participate in a training day prior to their week at camp where they learn about daily responsibilities, safety at camp, strategies for working with campers and even do some program planning for their week.

Visit <https://hartfordcounty4hcamp.org/counselors/> for more information.

**Must be 15 by January 1st 2023 to apply.  
The Counselor Application is due on April 1st, 2023**

## CAMP DATES 2023

Session	Dates
Bring Your Own Horse Camp	June 18 - June 24
Mini Camp	June 21 - June 22
Week 1	June 25 - July 1
Week 2	July 2 - July 8
Week 3	July 9 - July 15
Week 4	July 16 - July 22
Week 5	July 23 - July 29
Week 6	July 30 - August 5
Week 7	August 6 - August 12



## Hartford County 4-H Camp Mission Statement

An outdoor center that provides a safe, fun, inclusive, enriching experience with an appreciation for the environment through learning by doing.

4-H Camp is a place where 4-H principles are valued and personal growth fostered by honoring 4-H Camp traditions while creating new opportunities for all.

### Alumni Profile

## Honorable Patricia “Penny” Scanlon Contra Costa Superior Court California.



I first came to camp as an 11 year old in 1966. I returned to camp for at least 2 weeks every summer until I was 18, participating as a camper, a counselor, and a friend of the staff. My favorite memory of Camp is the yellow cake with peanut butter frosting. Actually, I have no favorite memory of camp because I loved everything about it: the singing, the activities, the 10 mile hike (which my sister Connie says was only 9 miles), the swimming, the dances, the campfires but most of all the people. Robie Berlani and Debbie Baldwin became two of my closest friends during my teenage years. I have wonderful memories of Kathy Temple (such a beautiful voice) and Dan Temple (always curious); Paul and Don Tuller (such dry senses of humor); the Murtha sisters (so much fun); Sue Paine (athlete extraordinaire); the very creative and talented Mike McCusker, Mike Pace, and Pete Bryzecki (who broke my heart); and the best dancer of them all, John Garaventa. I don't want to forget Lizzie Baldwin, the Riordan sisters, the sisters who ran the store (senior moment on their names but I remember a mouse running up one's pants leg), Boo Shepherd and all the others who made for a fun and supportive

Camp experience.

I skipped my senior year at Simsbury High School to attend Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA. I took a semester off my sophomore year to do "career exploration" in Northern California, working with juvenile delinquent boys. When I finished college, I returned to Northern California full time, going to University of California, Berkeley, to get my law degree in 1981. I worked as an attorney for the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office, defending indigent people accused of crimes, ranging from driving under the influence to murder, for 23 years. In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed me to the bench. (I think he selected me because I had a similar background to his wife, Maria Shriver, a Boston Irish Catholic Democrat.) Except for two awful years doing divorce law, I have been happily presiding over criminal matters. (People often ask so I will tell you: I think the longest sentence that I imposed was 235 years to life for a child molester.)

One thing that I learned and experienced at Camp was how to work co-operatively. We campers, counselors, and staff were largely self-governing. Elsie Woolam, our director, only asserted her authority when needed to keep us safe. I remember many of us returning from a hike through the horse barns when someone decided we should wet the area for a big mud fight. It was the only time I saw Elsie angry, because of the risk of danger to the horses. Another time, Elsie decided our cabin was a bit too high-spirited and required us to clean the downstairs of the mess hall. I appreciated her trust in her staff and learned that she who governs best, governs least.





**Penny Scanlon continued:**

I also appreciate that Patti Riordan continues to be so thoughtful and kind. When my mother, who was our club leader, died in 2021, Patti sent a very nice remembrance of her to the family. Such is the continuing spirit of 4-H and Camp.

As for me, I have been married to my second husband for almost 30 years. (We met in Alcoholics Anonymous, after I did a 28 day program at the Betty Ford Center. You can tell that I am no longer a reticent New Englander; I'm now more of a no filter Californian.) I have 6 wonderful stepchildren from both my marriages and two basenji dogs, who don't bark, don't shed, and don't obey. I regret that I cannot be on social media because of the potential danger from people who appear in front of me. Some of you may remember my sister Connie, who was a milliner for Disney, and my brother Neil, who works at Sunday River Ski Resort in Maine. We three benefitted greatly from our camp experience and are grateful to all of you.



## Keeping Track of you!

Marrages, Births, Job changes,  
Moving, other News

The Hartford County 4-H Camp has never been one to withhold interesting information on one of it's alumni, so please share your, alumni news with us! It is important that we maintain accurate address

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Date(s) Attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 News for Camp Chatter \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most effective way to stay in touch with You. USPost  Email  Other

Would you be interested in serving on our Camp Board?

Would you be interested in running a 4-H Club?

Contact:

Peggy Forman peggyf682@gmail.com  
 299 East Middle Turnpike  
 Manchester Ct 06040



## Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center - Camp Chatter – Winter 2023



Bob Pelton, Bob Bengtson, Mike Pelletier, Scott Tripp, John Garaventa, Al Penda, Peter Brzezicki.



**Brzezicki's Wednesday Volunteers**

Camp Alumni, Peter Brzezicki put out a call this past year for retirees and people who could arrange their own schedule to volunteer on Wednesday mornings to do odd jobs at camp. From painting the cross walks, to building the front gate to taking down trees, no job was too small or menial. Their crowning achievement was rebuilding the Woolam Equestrian Park sign. Special support provided by The Barnyard of Ellington, Kevin Foley Contractors of South Windsor and Pelweld Industries of Glastonbury.

Volunteers who gave their time were Bob Bengtson, Peter Brzezicki, John Garaventa, John Mahoney, Bob Pelton, Mike Pelletier, Al Penda, Dave Potter, Rocky Sinsagala, and Scott Tripp.

Plans are underway for the 2023 season; all are welcome to contact [Hartfordcounty4Hcamp.org](http://Hartfordcounty4Hcamp.org)





**Donate to 4-H  
Camp's Annual  
Capital &  
Endowment  
Campaign**

Making a wish. 4-H Camp Wishing Ceremony.  
Leave a legacy, make wishes come true by supporting Hartford County 4-H Camp Inc.  
Ways to give :

Tax deductible donations can be made in care of Hartford County 4-H Camp to  
**Hartford County 4-H Camp Inc.**  
**c/o Susan Coleman**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
**85 Silo Drive**  
**Rocky Hill, CT 06067**

**Matching gifts from your employer.** Check to see if your employer has a matching gift program. Maybe they will match or double the amount going to Camp if you complete a simple form.

**Corporate Contributions** Your employer may donate to an organization like 4-H Camp when it is recommended by their employees. Ask your employer about their corporate contributions program. Does your company have a foundation that supports local non-profits? Does your company have employee volunteer worker days?

**Memorial Contributions and Bequests.** Donations made in the memory of a loved one or friend can be made to the address above. We can name Hartford 4-H Camp to receive funds through your will, be named as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy, or receive funds from your retirement plan. Speak to your lawyer and financial planner about how to do this.

## **Another way to support Hartford County 4-H Camp**

*There's an old saying, 4-H is more than cows and Cookin'*

Do You have a special Skill, Interest or Hobby you could share with youth?  
Please consider volunteering with a 4-H Club near you, **OR** start your own. Try it for just several months, on your schedule.

Contact Jenn Cushman  
Hartford County 4-H Extension Educator  
UConn Hartford County Extension Center  
270 Farmington Avenue Suite 262  
Farmington, CT 06032



## New OPPORTUNITY FOR ALUMS!!

### Sponsor A Camp Horse For The Summer!.

Help keep horses at HC4H camp, and help children have a hands on Horse Activity experience!.

#### Gold Level Sponsor - \$500.00

- 2 Horse Activity Camperships
- Sponsor's Name on the Horse's stall
- A keepsake plaque with the horse's portrait and note from the campers who enjoyed your sponsorship.
- One GOLD sponsor per horse

#### Silver Level Sponsor - \$250.00

- 1 Horse Activity Campership
- Sponsor's Name on the Horse's stall
- A keepsake plaque with the horse's portrait and note from the camper who enjoyed your sponsorship.
- Up to two Silver sponsors per horse

#### Bronze Level Sponsor - \$100.00

- Sponsor's Name on the Horse's stall
- Note from a camper who enjoyed the program .
- Up to five BRONZE sponsors per horse.

Contact :  
Amy Balko  
860-305-8230 (Call or Text Friendly)  
Amymatulis@gmail.com

## Looking for Contributors to Camp Chatter

Do you have a good story, a cherished memory, News of Camp Alumni, Someone we should Profile?

Let us know, or better yet write an article for Chatter yourself.

Send Submissions to  
John Garaventa  
John@GaraventaPhotography.com



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