

Van Buren Youth Camp  
 12370 45th St  
 Bloomingdale, MI  
 49026

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 KALAMAZOO, MI  
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Check out our camp website at:  
[www.vbyc.org](http://www.vbyc.org)

Serving the Youth of Southwest Michigan Since 1950



## 2007 Camp Schedule

June 24-30	Leadership Workshop	grades 9-12	\$240
July 1-3	Rec Lab Late Youth (Tuesday Check Out 6:00 PM)	ages 13-16	\$90
July 5-7	Little Bear Pre-Early Youth (Thursday Check In 3:00 PM)	ages 6-8	\$90
July 8-14	Great Bear Early Youth	ages 8-11	\$240
July 15-21	Wolverine Middle Youth	ages 11-14	\$240
July 22-28	Arrowhead Early Youth	ages 8-11	\$240
July 29-Aug 4	White Pine Early Leadership	grades 6,7,8	\$240
Aug 12-18	Discovery Early Youth	ages 9-12	\$240



Winter 2006

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 Southwest Michigan  
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### VBYC Board of Directors

Terri Auensen  
 Sally (Pugsley) Brinkman  
 Bob Gregory  
 Alisa Haynor  
 Paul & Sue Knudstrup  
 Lynette Jancasz  
 Lewis Mike Prestidge  
 Bob & Marrijane Walker

### Life Members

Rick & Kathy Kinas  
 Ralph Patterson  
 Louise Thar Poland  
 Fred Pugsley  
 Jane Vaught  
 Tim & Georgie Washburn

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## Friends of Camp Newsletter

### Director's Corner

by Becky Pasman, Executive Director

As a veteran teacher, I am frequently asked if today's children are different. For many years my standard reply has always been no, but recently I have decided that today's child **IS** different from the children of past decades. Many things separate today's children, but the most predominate appears to be a lack of childhood. Today's youth have trouble just being a kid, making friends and having fun. Over the past twenty-seven years I have watched the typical 13 year old act more like an eighteen year old, and witnessed a dwindling of outside, neighborhood play time. Dr. David Elkind, a childhood expert and the author of *The Hurried Child* and *All Grown Up and No place to Go* writes that American children seem to be in continual motion - their schedules are packed with homework, chores, lessons and organized sports. He emphasizes that today's children lack time for good old-fashion play. In a recent article of *Camp* magazine an article titled "The Power Of Play", the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supported Dr. Elkind. This article references a report defending the importance of unscheduled play time, stating it is healthy and essential for helping a child with social, emotional and cognitive development as well as helping them manage stress and become resilient. It sounds like camp is the perfect solution to this missing link in a child's development. Camp offers young people the chance to learn to play and contributes to a child's health, physical, social and emotional needs. At VBYC campers leave on Saturday with uncluttered songs playing in their heads, stories about crazy skits, evening recreation and campfires, new friends and exhausted smiles. A week at camp sounds like a prescription any pediatrician would endorse. Our camp offers today's "Hurried Child" a slice of childhood. Would you like to contribute to a slice a childhood? Each summer I receive nearly 100 requests for camperships. I would love to never have to refuse any camper the opportunity to hold a new friend's hand, laugh, sing or play. Sponsoring a child is simply a matter of writing a check for \$240, but any contribution would be appreciated. Please consider helping a hurried child slow down and play.



THANKS TO ALL WHO  
SUPPORTED THE WILD  
GAME DINNER  
ON OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>. SEE  
YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

### Camp Wish List:

- New tents (sleep 6)
- Trail bikes
- Karaoke machine
- Money for camperships
- Volunteers for multiple projects
- Winning the lottery

### Projects for 2007

Starting this winter, the Board will be tackling several projects in preparation for the 2007 summer season. We have some repair and renovation to do to the lodge and kitchen in particular. This includes a new floor for the walk-in cooler, a storage addition in the kitchen and some drywall repair due to some roof problems. On cabin row, we are going to replace the solid metal doors with heavy screening doors in an effort to improve ventilation. In other words, we will be going back to what the original cabins had. So, we will be listening to the sounds of squeaky screen doors again - not a bad sound!

You may recall that we purchased a building last spring at auction to be used as a new camp store. This will be installed near the main parking lot and at the base of the Indian Mound. This was the site of the first arts & crafts cabin back in the 1950's. The slab is being poured this fall and the remainder of the work will be done next spring.

Finally, we are getting the new 30 acres ready for use. The Jail Work Crew has already done a fantastic job clearing a road into the property as well as clearing sites for the new riflery and archery ranges. Next spring we hope with the help of the prisoners to clear the banks as well as the streams themselves of brush and deadfall. We have approximately a half mile of streams to reclaim. There is also a foot bridge that needs to be erected over one of the streams. (This bridge is in need of a name so we welcome your suggestions!)

Surely there will be other projects that will pop up as we go along and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged. Please join us as we make dreams happen.



### Wanted: grown up campers and kindred spirit adults for VBYC board member positions . . .

Do you have ideas for camp and would like the opportunity to put them in action? Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to camp that goes beyond money?

Van Buren Youth Camp Board of Directors has 3 current openings. The Board is actively seeking individuals interested in participating in a unique experience. Once a month, the VBYC Board of Directors meets to discuss the progress, needs and direction of camp. In addition, the Board regularly reviews the budget, advertising, public relations and maintenance projects through various committees. The Board works with the camp Director to evaluate summer programs and assist in planning yearly Leadership workshops. During the spring and fall, the Board gathers for work-days to ready camp for the next exciting summer season. Contact any board member listed on page 1 if you are willing to serve.

THANK YOU SHARON BAILEY FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS!

Our leadership theme this year is a revisit of "To lead is to Serve". We are looking back at what camp has done for all who have been involved in its outreach. The 2007 staff is calling for help. Do you have a camp story you would like to share or a testimony about how camp has influenced your life? If so, please e-mail it to: [beckypasman@vbyc.org](mailto:beckypasman@vbyc.org). Your story will be used during the week of leadership as a story for general session, or become questions for a creative game of camp trivia. Are you a former folk dancer or camper? If so, would you be available to teach a dance to the 2007 campers? We have tentatively scheduled one evening general session to the history of Van Buren Youth Camp Folk Dancers and 3 days of clinic (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 11:00 am) to teach the new leadership camper old folk dances. Leadership camp is June 24-30. If you have time to help with this project, please contact me at the above e-mail address.

**The Board is investigating adding a BLOG link to the VBYC web site for alumni communications.**

**Stay tuned. . .**