

It all started in the Fall of 1969. Jim Molyneaux thought a weekend trip to a local farm would be a valuable experience for his 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classes. He made arrangements with the Bink family to use their farm as the destination for a weekend overnight trip. The staff included Orv Clark, Bill Chadwick, school hygienist Miss Welda Bell and Pete Molyneaux, Jim's brother. Orv and Bill did the cooking, Miss Bell chaperoned while Pete and Jim handled the curriculum. Girls slept in a one room cabin (shack) with a loft covered in Gulf Oil signs. Local pilots were said to have used the spot as a reference when flying in the area. The boys slept in the barn loft. A farm pond provided most of the entertainment/environmental activities. Anyone remember the zip line? The trip ended the next day with a visit to the Molyneaux farm (a sort of before it's time petting zoo) and directly on the return path to Portville.

That winter Jim Piatt (me) joined the staff at PCS as an opening came about in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Jim took over the science duties and Mr. Molyneaux moved to the English dept. The Jims quickly decided that the farm trip should stay and so was continued in the spring of 1970. The only changes to the program were in staffing. Mr Piatt's wife, Rosa, and some other family helped with the chaperone duties. Joyce Steiner, Donna and Jon Ford were roped into the camping family. It was at this first weekend experience that the campfire story, "The Golden Arm" was told by Pete Molyneaux. Pete was to continue that tradition for over 30 years!

The success of that weekend trip in the Fall and Spring of 69/70 spawned the week long residential outdoor experience now known as the Sixth Grade Ecology Trip. Little did we know!

The success of this program can never be attributed to a few, but only to a community of people willing to give and share. Teaching staff, administration, students, parent volunteers and community businesses are still the key to keeping this program viable. In the remainder of this narrative I would like to credit a number of those folks while at the same time remembering a history; a history you may have been a part of.

Mr. John DuBots was the supporting administrative drive, always encouraging and making sure we had the resources to be successful. I can still see John in the bus garage on a given Saturday with his car wash crew trying to soak him down as much as the cars. Who among us could ever pass up the chance of dousing the principal in that situation? I am sure he fought more battles and did more behind the scenes work than we will ever know. This support continues today with the guidance of Superintendent, Tom Simon. Tom has become very involved in the camp program and its finances. We are very thankful for all he has done in his short tenure.

The original teaching staff of Marv Smith, Helen Frost and the Jims may have been the first, but certainly not the last. Most staff realized that if you moved into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade you would probably be expected to attend camp and participate. No one, not one teacher ever refused to be a part of this trip. What a tribute to those staff members. Marv Smith served the longest, and while the great outdoors might not have been his first choice, Marv was there. Many will remember his hours at the archery range and grueling hikes to the fish hatchery. Mrs. Frost retired soon after this first trip but her "farm girl" background fit her well at camp. The "Lindas" were the next most senior (time, not age) staffers, Scott and Barber. Mrs. Scott had a swimming aptitude and served as a life guard on many occasions, while Mrs. Barber was into the plant/artsy thing. Both did lots of

extra duty in the dining hall trying to head up the KP crews of many years. There are so many more names to remember and I will try to get most. Hopefully you have a camp memory or two that includes one of these teachers. Early on there was Joel Fowler, Ann Caste, Cindy (Donnelly) McCann, Pat (McPhearson) Dentler, Sandy McFarland, Mike DeBarbieri and Al Murawski. Amy(Kuzak) Enos, Dave Waugh, Larry Welty, Miki Cole, Laurie Warner, Norm Glover and Cheryl (Dean) Kloc have joined the camp crew in later years and were/are a big part of our Timbercrest days. Elementary principal, Lynn Corder and secretary, Libby Stanton, are two new contributors to the teaching staff. Gene Rogers, former camper, and long time instructor/presenter has been a big help in seeing that this document is on the school website and updated often. Dave Waugh and Amy Enos have pretty much taken over the "Jim's duties" and are a big reason for the continued success of the camp. Mrs. Cole is catching up in the seniority department, too. It is especially gratifying to remember that Amy, Larry and Norm were each former campers and are now a part of the program history themselves.

Wolf Creek Scout Camp was the first in June of 1971. We did get the second year in but the flood and rains of 1972 washed out the lake and Wolf Creek was never the same again. We did return in '73 but soon realized that bussing to the school for swimming and using a small pond for canoes just wasn't going to work. What did work was the kitchen, and what a kitchen we had! Many may not realize that our first meals came from the Spring Hill Dairy. Marion Newberg agreed to prepare our meals at the restaurant and a couple of Chevy wagons from the school delivered. We relied on parents greatly at meal times and two stayed with us more than any since. Jerry Gaylor and Jack Garrey began as volunteers and soon became critical to the success of the Ecology Program. Without the people who have given up so much of their personal time, often using vacation credits to be with us, the camp could not have been. Food is of the utmost importance in keeping campers happy and we certainly have been happy with our food and the hands that prepared it. Jack and Jerry served the community for over 20 years and we were really concerned about finding replacements when the day finally came. Not to worry as the Kamerys stepped right in and didn't miss a beat. They had worked with Jack and Jerry as volunteers and agreed to give it a whirl. Sue and Dale saw us through their three children, if not more, and once again we were in the market for cooks. Dennis Hollamby and his wife, Maria, came aboard. Dennis had been a 6<sup>th</sup> grade camper himself and now he was giving back to the program in a very special way. The Hollambys had a couple of boys who were soon to be campers themselves. How neat for those teachers to see the generations coming through. The kitchen takes its toll and soon we were recruiting again. Two more former campers and now a married couple stepped up to the plate or pots and pans as the case may be. Lisa and Scott Nix became our next kitchen staffers. Throughout the years, the quality of the food never waived. Lisa and Scott brought an extended family with parents and sibs often showing up in the kitchen to pitch in, especially pizza pig-out nights. Brother in law, Tom Olson, became a lifesaving source of campfire wood ever since! We have been very fortunate to have numerous families provide wood over the years. I am so sorry not to have kept better track. I must acknowledge one other family at this point: the Gibersons, Rick and Nanette. They have been transporting all our food and supplies to camp for a number of years now in a beautiful enclosed trailer. They leave the trailer at camp for the week which then serves

as a great storage area for the cook staff. Now, back to the kitchen. Lisa was working on a teaching degree at this time, and once she graduated, stepped into a job at a local school and out of our kitchen. Thank goodness for the Zinks! Children, Justine and Luke, were just coming along and the parents saw a need for new help in the kitchen. Peg and Pat are now doing the duty and what a great job they do. Jack and Jerry are no longer with us but I know they would be pleased to see there are others willing to take on the monumental responsibility of the PCS Camp Kitchen!

In 1976, we left Wolf Creek for the conservation camp at Rushford Lake. The camp is owned and operated by the NYSDEC. This camp did give us a home for a couple of years but was small and did not have sleeping accommodations for everyone. The boys slept in tents from home, and the girls were in a dormitory setting. Linda Barber's husband, Mike, was a big help in seeing we had potable water for the boys site which was actually in a field to the side and rear of the lodge. It was a beautiful location, but just would not hold us. In 1978, we moved to Elk Lick, a Boy Scout camp just outside of Smethport.

We were now back in tents and pit toilets! We were also establishing a number of programs that were to become traditions at camp. One of the most popular was the "snake man." This actually began at Wolf Creek with St. Bona's Dr. Bothner as the presenter. He retired from camp and suggested a grad student, Herb Tucker, as his replacement. Herb was with us for many years, and Portville campers got to watch his family grow up with the program and become presenters themselves. We still do the snakes, but now have a snake woman, Amanda Griggs, of Scio, NY. She is also breaking her family in, and both daughter and son are becoming part of the program more every year. Fred Evans, local turkey expert, brought another long running program. How fortunate to have such a respected DEC rep as part of our curriculum! Even after retirement, Fred made more visits to camp and has filled in when others could not be with us. The list is too long to visit each program, but perhaps you remember: Bruce Robinson-forestry, Dan Doughty-black bear, Dan Rasey and Jeff Bray (campers) - fishing Portville, Rollie Bray- turkey, Jerry and Addie Scutt (camper) - lumberjacking, Steve Phillips- dog obedience, Midge Stock- Seneca Indian dancer, Ranger Rogers and Ranger Flannigan- hiking and fire safety, Mike and Brandon Scott with Kaleb Cutting - hunting and videos, Chad Faulkner (camper) - taxidermy/videographer, Chuck Lucas-custom fishing poles, and I am sure I have not listed them all.

Elk Lick had it all: big lake, nice sites, pool, huge lodge and great campfire area. Unfortunately the cost of camp became greater than we could pay and we moved again. The year was 1981 and we settled in at Crystal Lake. Yes, some parts of the movie were shot at this locale! We spent 5 years at this spot where we continued another camp tradition... Monday night chicken BBQ! It was thought that some of our regular evening speakers came only for the chicken but...? How about those chicken chefs: Jack and Jerry (of course), Mike Barber and son Josh, Kevin Curran, Cliff Hogan, George Nuffer and Mike DeBarbieri are the ones who come to mind. It is difficult to drive by this camp on Route 98 just outside of Arcade and not flash back to so many memories of those times. Once again money and budget forced us to consider a new camp, and we finally found a home. Camp Timbercrest, in the Randolph area, has been our spot since 1986.

Yes, we have been at Timbercrest for over 25 years now. We did have one hiatus in 2007 when the camp went through a major revamp and occupancy certificates were late

in coming so... the YMCA was kind enough to let us use Camp Onyasha on Chautauqua Lake with very short notice. It is a gorgeous camp with a beautiful log lodge overlooking the lake. Timbercrest was home, and the next year we returned to continue our program. Many of the activities of Wolf Creek are still being done today. Mr. Molyneaux's canoes are supervised by Dave Waugh with a few kayaks thrown in the mix, Mr. Smith's archery area is now equipped with compound bows and 3-D targets, Mr. Piatt's compass class is still a tradition, but augmented with GPS units, too, and still taught by Mr. Piatt. Amy Enos still sees that a letter gets home from camp, and yes, The Pit and the Pendulum is still the Wednesday night movie! The Ecology Book still has many of the original pages with some deletions and additions. Most would recognize it as similar to their own. We continue to rely on additional support staff from a variety of sources. You may recognize some of these volunteers: Vicki Greene Schmitt, Gary Swetland, Gene Rogers, Steve Hadzicki, Dave Shelc, Jim and Bernice Pierson, Boyd Fitzsimmons, Tim Panos, Dan Carrier, Pam Dominski, Alex Cole, Catt County Alcohol and Substance Abuse group, Josh Haines, Mike and Chrissie Matz, Charlie Backus, Sierra Beaver and more to come...

We continue to compete in the kickball tourney, and campfires burn most nights with Amy Enos at the front in Mr. Molyneaux's place. Junior Birdmen and Amster, Amster, dam, dam, dam are still favorites! I have been fortunate to move into the job description of storyteller - spinner of tall tales which are mostly true including Pete Molyneaux's "Golden Arm." Do you remember Albie Closser or Boss Hog and the Zippo lighter? We still do a pizza pig-out on Thursday night, and Camp Olympics on Friday before we leave.

How fortunate we have been to think of the hundreds of kids who have safely spent a week at camp and returned with most of their body parts intact. The safe returns are not an accident, and much prep goes into health and safety. Our waterfronts are always supervised by certified guards and directors. Thank you so much Jim Molyneaux, Mary Kay Goethicker (Erhard), Linda Scott, Chris Hadzicki, Dave Waugh, Beth Colligan, and Chuck Hild for making sure we always had water activities. The first-aid/meds responsibility have become full time and have been for quite awhile. Kudos and recognition to so many of you who gave of your time and expertise... Mary McCoy, Jean Feely, Sally Kayes, Laurna Kellog, Rick Scheiterly and Dr. Becky Scheiterly, Penny Milne, Wendy Eaton, John Eaton (camper, senior counselor and nurse) and Angela (Martin) Emley (almost a fulltime staffer now ten years and counting). Your TLC over the years has touched us all.

You can see the success of this adventure is truly a community effort. It does take a village to do whatever... I would also like to acknowledge a few of the corporate operations in the area that have been such a part of our success... Olean Wholesale, Mahar Service Stores, Bernie Baldwin's River Valley Farms, Ried's Food Barn, Wendy's and the local McDonald's, Slocum Archery, I should also mention our school cafeteria and transportation department for all the contributions they have made with their expertise and willingness to help. No lost luggage either, at least not on their part!

Much like dessert at camp, I have saved the best for last. My task is not yet complete, and I will continue to make an effort to see that all of the senior counselors are listed in this history. Without the willingness of such great young adults we could never have

attempted such an undertaking. They are certainly part of the village and a big part of this history.

1971

Jim Weed  
John Sutter  
Liz Whitney  
??

1972

Chris Anderson  
Mary Kay Worth  
Elaine Handley  
Bill Nothem  
Paul Dorman  
Joe Hill

1973

John DeAngelis  
Jeane Christopher  
Jackie Frost  
Dave Skiver  
Cathy Firkel  
John Cassada

1974

Tom Barnes  
Denise Aaron  
Linda Mieres  
Rick Crocker  
Keith McDivitt  
Mel Quist

1975

Nanette Propster  
Cindy Baker  
Lori Sprague  
Curt Metzgar  
Barry Sullivan  
Tom Warner

1976

Willie Prozeller  
Jeff Nix  
Todd Chadwick  
Kathy Martin  
Lisa Shepherd  
Amy Lorenz

1977

Lisa Beck  
Liz Wormer  
Lance Baker ?

1978

Howie Jaekle  
Dave Erickson  
Randy Hunt  
LuAnn Warner  
Cari DeAngelo  
Mary Cahilly

1979

Mark Jaekle  
Jon Giberson  
Kathy Rasey  
Randy Bretzin

1980

Tina Finger  
Patty Eaton  
Mo Rasey  
Todd Reynolds  
Larry Broughton  
Rob Pocolany

1981

John DuBots  
Kim Erickson  
Don McClarin  
Fran Shepherd

1982

Jean Rasey  
Melissa Gundlah  
Amy Erickson  
Jim White  
Peter Hatch  
Gary Griffith

1983

Tim Emley  
Joe Dunn

1984

Angie White  
Kelli Obrien

1985

Mike Buchannan  
Joe Miller

John Eaton  
Meghan Milne  
Brenda Wright  
Teri DuBots

Coralie Warner  
Jim Warner  
Jerry Reynolds  
Chris Gundlah

Bill Haines  
Kelly Milne  
Kelly Woodard  
Kristen Erickson

1986  
Rick Kennedy  
Al Witcher  
Craig Myers  
Anne Baldwin  
Eva White  
Sondra Peace

1987  
Andy Kayes  
Eric Anderson  
Dave Kinnard  
Nancy Hinkle  
Shari Ralston  
Kim Fairbanks

1988  
Dan Bailey  
Bob Miller  
Steve Clark  
Julie Jacobik  
Jennifer Kayes  
Laurie Hutchins

1989  
Terry Scalfaro  
Laura Welty  
Laurie Kloc  
Aaron Decker  
Rich Hernandez  
Linda Lucas

1990  
Colleen Cannon  
Monica Adams  
Melissa Scutt  
Kelly Marsh  
Tyrone Nichols  
Mike Torrey

1991  
Kim Alferink  
Amy Woodard  
Misty Skinner  
Cammie Morris  
Andy Molyneaux  
Chris Kloc  
Travis Piscitelli  
Jerry Button

1992  
Michelle Messler  
Jenn Haught  
Staci Everetts  
Erica Reynolds  
Dave Fowler  
Rich Wandover  
Mike Lisek  
Tom Chisholm

1993  
Dawn Pierce  
Amy Abdo  
Tracy Stives  
Sean King  
Brian Miller  
Lenny Giamano  
Jeff Gephart

1994  
Larry Johnson  
Robbie Jones  
Brock Greene  
Kirsten Witherell  
Jennifer Kunselman  
Meg Diviney  
Tara LaFredo

1995  
Jeff Scott  
Ryan Jordan  
Devon Callahan  
Kirk Heim  
Shanell Kamery  
Kara Wenke  
Liz O'Conner  
Denah Neudeck

1996  
Joy Feeley  
April Blaske  
Summer Hill  
Ryan Hunt  
Dan Ermer  
Kevin Spigel  
Dominic Alcocer

1997  
Kristi Forrest  
Meredith Yates  
Heidi Sturdevant  
Joleigh Morehouse  
Andy Kaya  
Pat Moses  
Shane Studley  
Dan Weber

1998

Joe DeBarberi  
Will Kamery  
Vince King  
Adam Babcock  
Abbey Hadzicki  
Becky Smith  
Rhonda Moore  
Stephanie Sprague

1999

Toby Miller  
Chris Williams  
Eric Blask  
Chris McCoy  
Nicole Dionne  
Melissa Bzdak  
Ellen Hanley  
Carrie Niver

2000

Casey King  
Phil Taylor  
Chris Scott  
Ty Warner  
Sarah McCoy  
Logan Hadzicki  
Erica Smith  
Vicki Schultz

2001

Andy Studley  
Jason Gildner  
Tom Chew  
Brian Blask  
Shanna Miller  
Lerin Hill  
Amy DeBarberi  
Molly Snow

2002

Michelle Mallory  
Alisha Wetherby  
Liz Glover  
Laura Sprague  
Kurt Mott  
Phil Dione  
Andy Struchen  
Josh Smith

2003

James Bush  
Aimee Delyser  
Eric Firkel  
Adam Hellwig  
Amber Haberberger  
Jeremy Payne  
Katie Swanson

2004

Mary Ann Bantleman  
Alicia Austin  
Erin Engals  
Jared Kausner  
Adam Wysocki  
Casey Harris  
Carli Woodhead  
??

2005

Kiley Hadzicki  
Jessica Campbell  
Josh Haynes  
Brad Holcoomb  
Angie Hollamby  
Brian Nitsche  
Hannah Donahue  
??

2006

Ali Tigh  
Ashley Bantleman  
Matt Blue  
Abe John  
Justine Carr  
Jesse Spehar  
Joe Holcomb  
Megan Salada

2007

Mike Buchanan  
Tim Hollamby  
Jesse Doty  
Kellie McMahon  
Dillan Shaw  
Alyssa Blaske  
Andy Boser  
??

2008

Colin Sullivan  
Katie Mallery  
Garret Childs  
Danielle Campbell  
Brandon Yarnes  
Elizabeth Woodhead  
Phylicia Patterson  
Charles Stover

2009

Alexis Jordan  
Nick Sosnoski  
Laura Giberson  
Jordan Shaw  
Sarah Augustini  
Jeremy Spehar  
Lindsey Olson  
Samer Al-Humadi

2010

Clint Brewer  
Skip Giberson  
Alex Harris  
Casey Caya  
Devon Peace  
Hannah Donahue  
Jenna Fuller  
Kayla Patterson

2011

Alexa Campbell  
Cody Childs  
Garth Childs  
Jordan Spehar  
Tyler Yarnes  
Adrian Ziaggi  
Jill Slawiak  
Kristin Woodhead

2012

Kayla Welty  
Jordan Smith  
Will Caya  
Brandon Groth  
Colt Lowe  
Jon Bossert  
Ali Doty  
Brandi Williams  
Sarah Linn

20013

Emily Simon  
Albanie Stives  
Justine Zink  
Gia George  
Troy Giberson  
Josh Watson  
Clay Johnson  
Zack Blaske

2014

Curtis Caya  
Travis Groth  
Brett Marcellin  
Ben Waugh  
Kailyn DeLaney  
Brooke Lewis  
Ellen Bossert  
Makayla Wells

2015

Elizabeth Tkacik  
Madison Clark  
Elizabeth Augostini  
Megan Fitzimmons  
Luke Zink  
Chase Swetand  
Brady Stein  
Brett Martin  
Colin Evans

I am fairly certain that people who should have been mentioned were overlooked only due to an old guy's poor memory. I do apologize to those folks. I would like to be made aware of those omissions so I can update this history. I am also trying to fill in the gaps where senior counselors are missing or incomplete. If you can help please contact me at the following e-mail site: [jpiatt@portvillecsd.org](mailto:jpiatt@portvillecsd.org)