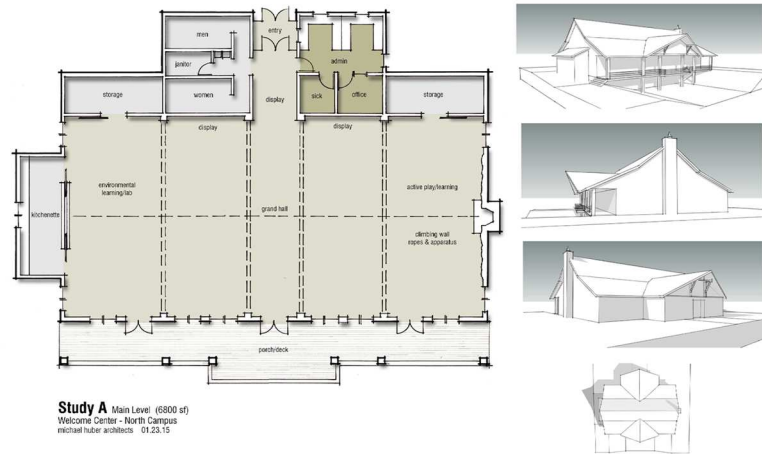


# Looking Ahead to 2015

## Building Tomorrow's Leaders

To meet the needs of a growing camp and community, Camp St. Croix is raising money to construct a new adventure learning center on Camp's north property. The building will be operational in the spring of 2016! This multi-purpose building will serve youth and adults year-round by providing a **day camp gathering space**, a **storm shelter**, community **meeting and event hall**, and **indoor learning area** for environmental education and youth development. We have already raised over \$1 million! To learn more or help us reach our goal, visit [campstcroix.org](http://campstcroix.org).



## For The Love of Croix – 2015

Be a part of history and join us at Camp St. Croix's annual reunion and fundraiser: **May 21, 2015**. Reconnect with camp friends, bid at the silent auction, and enjoy great food and drink. This event will feature the re-dedication of the newly renovated **Prof. Johnson Nature Center**.



## Savanna Renovation

Savanna will get a much-needed renovation and restoration in 2015. The refurbished building will include increased lodging and meeting space and will feature new elements that are designed to better serve our demographics. This building was built in 1968 and has seen a few minor upgrades in the 1980s. Savanna is definitely due for some TLC!

## Prairie Burn Music Festival

New this year - Camp St. Croix will be hosting a one day **music festival on September 26th, 2015**. This event will bring together camp alumni, community members, and your favorite camp musicians for fun, fellowship and fundraising. This will be the inaugural year of what will become a fun tradition to benefit all YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities Camps. Join us for the event or volunteer to help us plan and implement! Email [John.Bussey@ymcatwincities.org](mailto:John.Bussey@ymcatwincities.org) for more info.

## Community and Alumni Development

Camp St. Croix's **Community/Alumni Development Committee** has set forth to advance our cause and mission within the community and with our alumni. One major goal for this committee is to reconnect to friends and alumni of Camp St. Croix. We want to hear your camp stories, see your pictures, and update contact information! Please send us your contact information, stories, or pictures from your time at Croix – via snail mail, Facebook, or on our website at [campstcroix.org](http://campstcroix.org) (click on 'About' and then 'Alumni').

### Strategic Planning

The board and staff have embarked on a new **strategic planning** process. This plan will stay close to the roots and traditions of camp while looking forward to the future with the following long-term priorities:

- **Programmatic Excellence**
- **Financial and Community Strength**
- **Land Stewardship**

### National Parks Service

Camp St. Croix is partnering with the National Park Service to offer expanded programming for DayCroix in 2015. This will include field trips to nearby national parks and rangers coming to Croix for education about our waterways.



# Camp St. Croix

## 2014 In Review



### Greetings from Camp St. Croix!

We are pleased to report that the Camp St. Croix experience continues to foster **achievement, relationships and belonging**, as it has for 105 years. At YMCA Camp St. Croix, we are successfully delivering on our mission of building community and teaching respect for self, others, and nature through summer camp, outdoor education and retreats.

How do we know we are succeeding? Because parents tell us: **"This experience will enrich their education for a very long time. The skills and hands-on lessons learned during our adventures are invaluable."**

All of us at Camp St. Croix want you to know how grateful we are to YOU for your passion for, belief in, and gifts to Camp St. Croix. We embrace our stewardship responsibilities, including our obligations to all of you.

As one alumni recently wrote; **"Our collective value systems were hugely and positively influenced by what our camp experiences taught us and it is astounding how many have carried this and influenced others over the years with that same sense of a passion for life and for each other."**

We are deeply grateful for your confidence in Camp St. Croix, and will continue to do all we can to deserve such support today and into the future.

  
**Amy Schneider**  
Executive Director



## 2014-2015 Camp St. Croix Volunteer Board Members

**Tom Madigan, Chair** • **Rachel Tranberry, Vice Chair**

Joe Alton • Beka Butter Grathwol • Eric Fotsch • Jason Fredrickson • Sara Genereaux • Tracy Habisch-Ahlin • Michelle Heckmann • John Huber • Yonah Kambale • Jim Lutiger • Sheila Lutiger • Sheri Marnell • Tim Marnell • Jillian Nodland • Paul Rosso • Steve Santos • Paul Shirilla • Greg Small • Mike Stein • Al VanDenBroeke • Brian Zelenak



## For The Love of Croix

Camp St. Croix is 105 years old! We marked this milestone with an alumni reunion and celebration. We heard stories of times past, laughed over old photos, and raised \$20,000 for Camp St. Croix, \$10,000 of which was designated to renovate the Prof Johnson Nature Center. We hope to see you at our next annual **Love of Croix** reunion and fundraiser on May 21, 2015.

## Volunteers Make it Happen!

Thanks to a dedicated group of alumni volunteers, and donors we were able to restore the Prof. Johnson Nature Center so new campers can enjoy and experience it in the way Prof. Johnson intended. Volunteers are also putting together a display with pictures and artifacts to tell the story of Camp St. Croix's history.



## 2014 By The Numbers

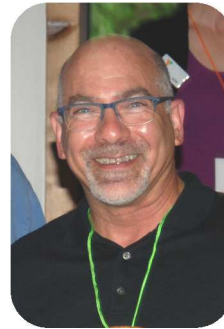
- 1 new zip line installed
- 8 former KLC campers on summer staff
- 12 new Opti sailboats added to the sailing program
- 96 percent growth in homeschool programs
- 339 donors to our annual scholarship fund
- 700 pounds of spaghetti eaten
- 821 wintergreen mints consumed during night hikes
- 4,881 summer campers (a new record set!)
- 13,000 pancakes consumed
- 19,415 participants attended Camp St. Croix
- 201,774 dollars of scholarships awarded

## Outgoing Board Members Thank you for your work!

**Patty Mueller** was a program director for camp in the 1980s and also served on the board for six years. Patty was a founding Chair of Croix's Sustainability Committee.



**Jonathan Akers** served on the board for three years. He was an integral member of the Program Committee where he brought new ideas and perspectives.



**Michel Tigan** has a long history at Camp St. Croix that includes camper, staff, board member, and Board Chair. Michel's leadership was focused on fundraising and programs.



## Camp St. Croix Full-Time Staff

**Amy Schneider, Executive Director**

John Bussey • Nick Duchow • Sue Elmer • Mike Flaa • Jen Fogel • Dave Freund • Adam Lotze • Missy Huppert • Bob Jones • Stephanie Lentz • Anne Moore • Hart Olson • Tracy Ryman • Dave Simpson • Ashley Sukowatey • Jennifer Weinzirl



## 2014 Annual Campaign Success

We exceeded our goal of raising \$103,000 with a final total of \$105,028! These funds supported over 2,000 camper scholarships, helped pay for staff training, and bought needed program equipment.

The campaign was chaired by Board Volunteer **Al VanDenBroeke** with the support of Michel Tigan, Jim Lutiger, Tom Madigan, Sheri Marnell and Camp St. Croix board members

**Thank you to all of our call night and event volunteers and to everyone who donated to this campaign!**

There is still time to donate to our 2015 Annual Campaign. We are getting close to reaching our goal, so if you haven't donated yet this year, please consider a gift to help campers thrive!

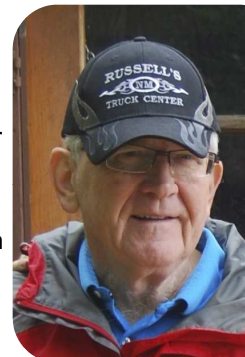
## In Memoriam

**Zach Wateski** (1983-2014) worked for Camp St. Croix for 9 years. He was a joyful and optimistic young man that loved his "side gig" at Camp St. Croix. He was also our go to guy for any cookouts, he loved working the grill and was most often seen up at DayCroix on Family Nights flipping burgers!



**Bob Rick** (1933-2014) began his career with the YMCA as a summer camp staff member at Camp St. Croix in 1949. He went on to a 41-year career with YMCA camping, spending 31 years as a camp director and several years as VP of Financial Development of the St. Paul YMCA. Bob influenced thousands of campers and staff members over the course of his career, building lasting relationships. Bob loved nothing more than spending time outdoors - backpacking, hiking, camping, biking & gardening.

**Russ Peterson** (1942-2014) As a sophomore from Sibley High School in West St. Paul, Russ was recruited by Paul Chapman to become a junior staff at Camp St. Croix in 1957. He continued to work on Jack Murdock's staff for years. Russ served terms on the Camp St. Croix Board during 1972-79 and had done volunteer work at camp on a regular basis.



## 2014 Distinguished Leaders

**Maggie McKinley** received the **Youth Thrive Award** for her passion, natural leadership, and dedication to camp.



**Dave Simpson, Camp St. Croix Property Manager**, was awarded the **Outstanding Service Award** for his 20 years of work and commitment to Camp St. Croix.



**Amy Brendmoen, Gretchen Sage-Martinson, and Jessica Johnston** shared Camp St. Croix's 2014 **Distinguished Leader Award**. These three amazing women have organized the annual **Croixathlon FUN-draiser**, a sprint triathlon that is known for



being fun and unique. Their efforts have raised thousands of dollars for camp and brought many new faces to run, bike, and swim at Croix.

## New Program Directors

**John Bussey** (left), Overnight Camp Director, has spent most of his life involved with YMCA camps and is thrilled to be a part of the Camp St. Croix team.

**Hart Olson** (right), Outdoor Education Director, grew up in northern MN and is excited to turn his life-long love of the outdoors into a career.

