

**2021**

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## **"For the first time in 73 years, there would be no summer camp at Wyldeewood."**

To say that 2020 has been a challenging year is a huge understatement! March 2020 is a month none of us will soon forget. Just as we were getting ready to ramp up for the summer, things began to shut down all around us. At first we hoped it would just be a few weeks only impacting our spring retreats, but as the spring progressed, it soon became evident our 2020 summer was being threatened.

In late May, we made the difficult decision to cancel all summer events. For the first time in 73 years, there would be no summer camp at Wyldeewood. Our summer programming is at the heart of what we do and who we are. From the very beginning, Wyldeewood's main mission has been to share Christ through the summer camp program.

After dealing with the emotional aspect of not having camp this summer, we had to look at the reality of the financial impact canceling the summer would have on Wyldeewood. Over 50% of our annual revenue comes from our summer programming and summer rentals. We also had to take into account the loss of our spring rentals and the possibility of fall rentals canceling. While we were confident God would provide for Wyldeewood, as He always has, we weren't sure how this would take place.

We determined that even with drastically cutting expenses, we would need an additional \$50,000 to make up for the lost revenue. In late June, we received a phone call from one of our long-time Wyldeewood families who was interested in helping us through this difficult time. They generously pledged \$10,000 as a matching gift to help motivate the Wyldeewood family to give as well. In early July, we announced the "Make the Difference" fundraising campaign.

Our initial goal was to raise \$10,000 in one week to receive the matching gift with the hope of substantially reducing the \$50,000 deficit.

The Wyldeewood family showed their love and dedication through their extraordinary generosity. By the end of Monday, the first day of the campaign, we had exceeded our initial goal of \$10,000 ensuring the matching gift. By the end of the week, over \$64,000 was raised!

While 2020 has not been the year we had hoped for, it has been a year in which Wyldeewood has been blessed beyond expectations!



# THANK YOU!

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# Celebrate Together

We raised over \$30,000 at the 2020 Golf Tournament!

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 James Williams, Raymond Means, Jeff Bonee



# RESURRECTION

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;"  
John 11:25

2021

## Registration and Other Information

Registration begins on **January 1, 2021**

01

Register online at **campwyldewood.org**

02

Super Early Bird Discount (\$20) if registered **before April 1st**

03

Early Bird Discount (\$10) if registered in the **month of April**

04

# SESSION & DATES

Session 1	May 30 - June 5	\$285
Short Session 1	May 30 - June 2	\$175
Session 2	June 6 - June 17	\$425
Session 2B	June 6 - June 12	\$285
Session 3	June 27 - July 8	\$425
Session 3B	June 27 - July 3	\$285
Session 4	July 11 - July 22	\$425
Session 4B	July 11 - July 17	\$285
Session 5	July 25 - July 31	\$285
Short Session 2	July 25 - July 28	\$175



Group	Age
1	8-10 Years
2	11-12 Years
3	13-14 Years
4	15-18 Years

## ACTIVITIES

- Archery Tag
- Blob
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Gaga Ball
- Golden Goal **New!**
- Rappelling
- Archery
- Hatchet Throwing **New!**
- Basketball
- Arts and Crafts
- 9 Square in the Air
- Swimming
- And much more!



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

*Interview with Cody Rogers*

## How did you find out about Camp Wyldewood?

I think I first came because two friends from my church at the time (Sylvan Hills Coc- Taylor Sherrill and Haylynn Beall) invited me. I had never done anything similar before, but my brother and I ended up going and I liked it, hence the multiple returns.

## What years did you attend Wyldewood? (Camper years? Staff years and jobs?)

I camped from 2005 to 2009. I used to be able to recite all the camp themes, haha. I worked 2010, 2011, and 2013. I did volunteer for the last week of 2012, just as the male lifeguard so that one of the female workers wouldn't have to. My jobs seemed to get increasingly complex as I worked. I started as just the lifeguard for boy's swim, which involves some maintenance and cleaning and whatnot. The next year, I was Male Staff Leader. That year was fun. I remember working with Hannah Ray and Will Reno. Really got close to Will that year. Summer of 2013 I was the Day Camp Director, which was probably the hardest and most rewarding summer.

## Of all of the jobs you did at camp, which was your favorite and why?

As mentioned, probably that 2013 summer as Day Camp Director. Man. I think there was an element of heaviness knowing it was my last summer. But with that job, and any day camp job there, you see a lot of the same kids ALL summer. Which can be challenging but really allows you to build relationships with those kids. One of the pictures below is of four kids that came most all summer. There were several others, but I got really close to those kids. With that though, as again any day camp worker can tell you, some kids come from harder lives and they really challenge you but allow you to pour in, too.







## Who is someone you grew particularly close to because of Wyldeewood and how did your time together at camp impact that friendship?

Well, I already mentioned Will Reno. I remember him as a counselor when I camped, but we definitely grew closer when we worked together. The similar jobs allowed us plenty of time doing the same kind of work. I think just that mutual job, time together, allowed us plenty of camaraderie. Also, since the job inherently is service oriented and working with kids, you get closer to someone anytime you serve with them. Even now we'll call each other up and talk about really meaningful things for a long time. I am very thankful for that.

## What is one of your fondest memories of your time at Wyldeewood?

I remember doing a lot of goofy stuff as a Group 4 guy camper in a smaller session (I only ever camped Session 1-often there was only one boy cabin in that group). Sheep Across the River in the dark. Running down the pathway to the Dining Hall as a cabin yelling "Maggie" for some reason. Lots of tetherball. Or even as a staff worker, putting brooms in my sleeves to act goofy (and the director walking in on me-lol), lots of time on the day camp bus, lifeguarding for day camp and some of those super cute kids.

I also remember feeling like one of the first times I felt God's presence was singing "There's a Stirring" at night after a devo. Lots of emotion, but there was definitely more. And I won't go into great detail here, but there were some events that let me know "hey, I have really made an impact on this kid in a positive way." And I won't ever forget those.

## What have you been doing since your time at Wyldeewood?

Well, lots of school, haha. While working at Wyldeewood, I finished a degree at Harding. Then went to medical school at UAMS, then finished a residency (partly in Memphis, TN but mostly in Springfield, MO), and am now in a fellowship in Wichita, KS! Lots of traveling too, evidently. So I guess now I am technically a Family Medicine Physician but I am getting some extra training in International Medicine.

## Any final thought you would like to share?

A missions professor from Harding was quoted in the student Newspaper as saying something along the lines of "I believe there are few places where more eternal good is done than at summer camps." That really impacted me, and I think there is truth in that. The ability to make impacts that last a lifetime is seen yearly at Wyldeewood, but maybe the impact is deeper on the counselor/staff. The mantra of "camp is for the camper" really can refocus you into a sacrificially serving way, and that mindset can really go far. So if you have the chance to camp, do it, but if you have the chance to work DO IT.



# GIVING THANKS

*We appreciate you.*

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**TO ALL OF  
OUR DONORS**



# FIRST FRUITS CLUB

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2019

# Wyldeewood Awards



## John & Gertrude Dykes Award

The Dykes Award is given annually to someone who has shown a life-long commitment to Camp Wyldeewood. The 2019 award was presented to Judy Posey. Judy grew up camping at Wyldeewood and eventually brought her own two boys as campers. Judy is one of Wyldeewood's biggest promoters in the Little Rock area.

## Hugh and Mildred Groover Award

The 2019 Groover Award recipient was Carlotta Thompson. Carlotta is a former camper and counselor. In recent years, she has returned to Wyldeewood with her husband, Jamie, to serve in our nurses' station. This year, Carlotta's business, Thompson and Associates, was the corporate sponsor for our Wyldeewood Golf Tournament.



## Michael & Shelley Lincoln Award

CWE

This award is given each year to a business that goes above and beyond to help Wyldeewood. The 2019 award winner was Bobby Webb, of Carlton-Webb Electric. Bobby goes out of his way to help Wyldeewood with all our electrical needs.

## Joyce Rushton Award

The 2019 Rushton Award was awarded to Brian and Michal Hickey. The Rushton award is given each year to volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to helping Wyldeewood. Brian and Michal have dedicated countless hours working and volunteering to help make Wyldeewood a better place.



## Latina Dykes Giving Heart Award

The Latina Dykes award is given each year to an individual or group who show outstanding support for Wyldeewood. The 2019 Latina Dykes award was given to John & Kaitlyn (Perring) Frizzle. John & Kaitlyn have shown outstanding support for Wyldeewood through their monthly giving and writing Bible curriculum.



# Bee Rock

Last winter, we came to the realization that Bee Rock, our beloved camp landmark, had become too overgrown to admire its true beauty. After several months of hauling chainsaws up and down the base of the cliff while tethered to stumps, cutting down trees and bushes, pulling the cut down trees with trucks down to the bottom, and getting quite a workout each day we worked, phase 1 of “Reclaim the Rock” was finally finished. Our goal was to expose the face of the cliff again so that the Wyldewood family could see our treasured Bee Rock in all of its glory at closing ceremonies again. Below are a few photos of the progress made.



# Recently, our friends at Searcy Water Utilities posted a very interesting story on Bee Rock's history.

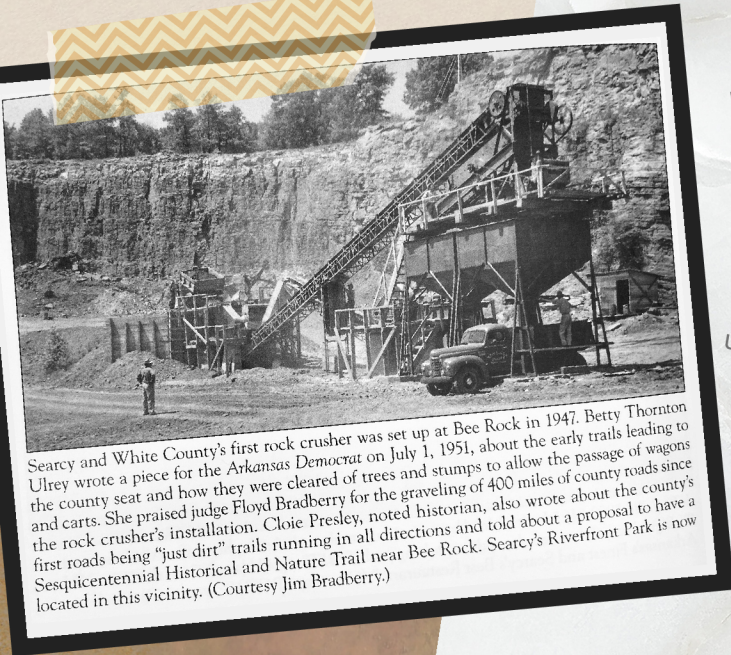


The following is that story written by Scotty Boggs.

Bee Rock is an important iconic location for our utility as the Water Treatment Operators must drive past it on our right-of-way to service and maintain the Raw Water Intake pumping stations. I personally have been driving past it almost 40 years which in time it has not notably changed. However it has always been an important spot in our community. Sadly I did not find reference to the name but "Bee" Rock conjures up many potential self-explanatory mental images, so anyone's guess is good. There was reference to the evidence of Cliff Dwelling Indians from the mid-16th to 17th century in caves that used to exist under overhangs much closer to the Little Red River. This provided not only wonderful shelter but close access to the river, a valuable source of food and travel. Blasting has long since changed the topography and eliminated any archaeological remains. There is record of a popular ferry that operated just a half-mile upstream that dates to the 1860's. Picnic activities were a popular pastime and the location sponsored one huge hoot-nanny in 1877 that was well publicized.

However the lasting legacy of Bee Rock is the quarry. I found a footnote, to pay off a debt, an individual used black powder in bore holes to quarry some Bee Rock stone for the Black house on Race St. This was to serve as a private sidewalk so Mrs. Black and children could get into their buggies without soiling their button shoes. The stones are said to remain today on the west side of the area on the Locust St. side. The work dates to 1896. In 1927 the Red River Stone Company was founded and quarried stone was hauled with Mules to the river's edge and barged to the Lower Mississippi basin for use on the levee. A bit later in the 1930's the quarry is said to have provided a much needed economic resource, not only for the stone but also work for hire, providing farmers who owned trucks extra income by hauling out the quarry stone. They delivered to the trains, which in turn, hauled to the Helena area, for levee construction along the Mississippi River.

This brings us to the time period near the photo. Bee Rock was an important component in paving the dirt paths in the county and bringing modern commerce to our city. Passing by today, in its lush solitude, one can only imagine the times and the lives it has seen.



Searcy and White County's first rock crusher was set up at Bee Rock in 1947. Betty Thornton Ulrey wrote a piece for the Arkansas Democrat on July 1, 1951, about the early trails leading to the county seat and how they were cleared of trees and stumps to allow the passage of wagons and carts. She praised judge Floyd Bradberry for the graveling of 400 miles of county roads since the rock crusher's installation. Cloie Presley, noted historian, also wrote about the county's first roads being "just dirt" trails running in all directions and told about a proposal to have a Sesquicentennial Historical and Nature Trail near Bee Rock. Searcy's Riverfront Park is now located in this vicinity. (Courtesy Jim Bradberry.)





“

Last year, we were asked by another camp director,

**"What is your mission statement?"**

We knew what we did at Camp Wyldeewood, but didn't really know how to efficiently describe what the mission looked like. This led to some self evaluation of our mission, vision, and core values.

## **CHRIST - COMMUNITY - CREATION**

You may have noticed that we have been putting "Christ - Community - Creation" on everything. It's on our new logo, it's on almost all of our social media posts, at the end of our emails, and on all of our materials that we send out through the mail. We decided that those three things were the heart of the Wyldeewood experience. This self evaluation led to the creation of our mission statement: "We want to strengthen young people's relationship with Christ through meaningful worship experiences, create an environment that promotes community through Christ-centered relationships, and provide opportunities to experience God's presence through His creation."

Because of our new mission statement, we've made "Encountering Christ, Community, and Creation" our vision statement and tagline in hopes to help continue to promote a culture that we have all experienced and grown to love and know during our time together at Wyldeewood. Our hope is that through the direction and guidance of our mission, vision, and core value statements, we will continue to carry on the legacy of mission that so many have experienced on the grounds at camp.



# VISION MISSION CORE VALUES



## OUR MISSION

We want to strengthen young people's relationship with Christ through meaningful worship experiences, create an environment that promotes community through Christ-centered relationships, and provide opportunities to experience God's presence through His creation.

## OUR VISION



Encountering  
Christ



Encountering  
Community



Encountering  
Creation

## CORE VALUES

- We believe camp ministry to be a highly effective way to minister to young people.
- We teach Biblical truth in love.
- We provide leadership and ministry opportunities for our counselors and staff members.
- We believe that the summer camp experience provides opportunities for creating and strengthening lifelong Christ centered relationships.
- We believe that the glory of God can be seen and experienced through His creation in nature.
- We believe it is important to bring glory to God by being good stewards of the gifts given to the mission of Camp Wyldewood.
- We want to provide the best experience possible for a reasonable price.

# THE '48 CLUB

One of our core values at Wyldeewood is to provide the best experience possible for our campers at a reasonable price. We are frequently asked, “How much does it truly cost to send a kid to camp?” The quick answer is, more than we charge.

In 2019, it cost Wyldeewood just over \$500 for a one-week camper and around \$800 for a two-week camper. We currently charge \$285 for a one-week session and \$425 for a two-week session. While camping is a seasonal industry, where the majority of our revenue and expenses are incurred during just a few months each year, we do have significant operating expenses that are incurred year-round including insurance, payroll, maintenance, advertising and many others.

Other off-season revenue streams like facility rentals and merchandise sales help to defray a portion of those year-round expenses, but only a small portion.

These gaps create a significant budget shortfall each year that must be filled with both alternative revenue streams and fundraising, which makes it challenging to also raise money to make improvements to our camp facilities. The solution to this challenge seems simple... increase the price of camper fees. Compared to most camps that are similar to Wyldeewood our camper fees are quite low. However, while we will continue to raise camper fees incrementally, we are committed to the core value of providing the best experience possible at a reasonable price. **We don't believe that an incredible camp experience should only be for kids who can afford an incredible camp experience. We believe strongly, as most of you do, that Christian Camping is a great mission field where lives are changed forever.**

There are currently 52 families that donate monthly to Wyldeewood. Those monthly donations range from \$5 to several hundred a month and we are grateful for all of them. We believe that by increasing our monthly donors we will be able to continue providing an amazing and affordable camp experience while also continuing to upgrade our facilities and operate under a balanced budget.

Therefore, we are launching a campaign during 2021 to increase the number of families financially supporting Wyldeewood on a monthly basis to 100 families. Achieving this goal will allow us to utilize our one-time donations towards specific projects to help move Wyldeewood to the next level. We are calling this new group of monthly donors The '48 Club. Wyldeewood was established in 1948 by John and Gertrude Dykes and many others families. The founding families realized the impact Christian camps could have on the lives of young people. We believe the need for that impact is even greater today in our society.

I am reaching out to you, someone who has experienced the blessings of Wyldeewood, and asking you to partner with us to help grow the ministry of Wyldeewood.



## Donation Options

- Go to [campwyldeewood.org](http://campwyldeewood.org) and hover over the “Donate” tab, click on the “The '48 Club” (or use the QR Code) to set up monthly online donations.

- Checks can be mailed to:  
Camp Wyldeewood  
P.O. Box 1255  
Searcy, AR 72145



Please indicate 48 Club in the memo line

# Memorials

## **Hugh Groover**

Lolita Smith  
Mildred Grover

## **Jerry Richardson**

Susie & Hugh  
McConnell

## **Janet Hudelson**

Rebecca Gowen  
Jared Cox

## **Howard Davis**

James Brown  
Kathleen Davis

## **Wayne Bolding**

Patricia & Darrell Bolding  
Sam & Lisa Miller  
Rick & Susan Harper  
Nelson & Jackie Ruscin  
Lolita Smith  
Linda & Leslie Gipe

## **June Dockery**

Nell Owen

## **Louise Pace**

Layton & Teresa  
(Mooneyham) McCown

## **Grace Brewer**

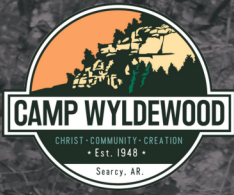
Rodger Brewer

## **Mary Shock**

Layton & Teresa  
(Mooneyham) McCown

## **Kathy Rowlett**

Jill & Rebecca Sims  
Gary & Pam Stephenson



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