

Alumni Newsletter

Winter Edition

Greetings from Camp Onas!

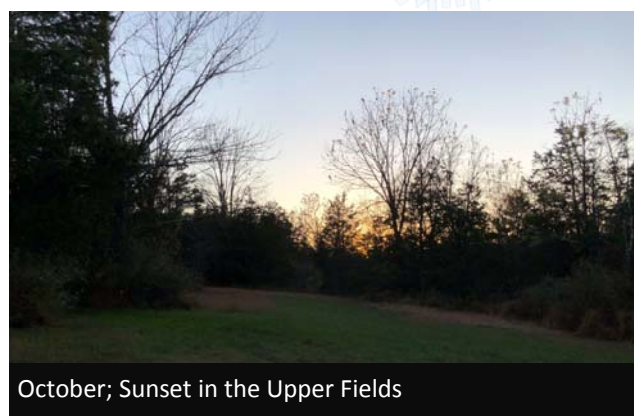
At this point in the season, we've already switched out shorts and sandals for long pants and boots ... our water bottles for mugs of tea ... and we are turning our thoughts toward gearing up for the 2020 summer.

Winter is always a bit of a strange time at Camp Onas. It's VERY quiet and a little lonely, but also pretty and peaceful.

Many of our alumni are probably used to thinking of Camp Onas in its summer glory... lush and green and humid, or perhaps a bit dry and dusty, depending on the kind of summer it is ... we thought it would be fun to send along some photos of Camp Onas from this fall and early winter, so you can picture being here at Onas this time of year.



September; Narnia under blue sky with goldenrod



October; Sunset in the Upper Fields



November; Moss is almost the only remaining green

Happenings at Onas

There's not a ton of news to report this time of year, but here's a recap of how we spent the fall...

School groups: Some of you may not know that we run 2 and 3 day camping programs for school students. The Onas-led programs focus on teambuilding, camping skills, and cooperation. We do activities like archery, canoeing, high and low ropes, and they sleep in the bunks just like summer campers do (though they like the flaps down!). This fall, we hosted students from Gladwyne Montessori School and River Valley Waldorf School.

Board of Directors at work on our next Strategic Plan: As a nonprofit organization, Camp Onas is run by a [Board of Directors](#). They are a group of volunteer leaders, mostly Quakers, who are in charge of the oversight of Camp Onas and aided by Holly and Matt. The board works together to support long-term planning for Onas, which includes strategic planning.

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Hip Hip Hooray for Our Alumni Network!

In late September, we reached out to our Alumni Network for help with our campaign to **raise \$62,805 in Camper Aid**, which is what we needed to cover **65 camperships** for the 2019 summer.

We asked for your help **sharing, posting, and spreading the word** about the Camper Aid Program via social media... **and our Alumni answered the call in an incredible way!**

With your help in the form of donations, shares, posts, stickers, and more, **we exceeded our goal** and have a great start on raising camperships for the 2020 summer.

Thank you, Onas Alumni, for your all of your help!



Happenings at Onas (Continued from Page 1)

In October, the board met to begin work on camp's next 5-year strategic plan, identifying key areas for work and improvement over the next 5 years (while still maintaining all that is great about Camp Onas).

Likely areas of focus over the next 5 years will include:

- Increased Engagement and Communication with our Alumni (you!)
- Improvements to camp facilities that will help Onas run better
- Decreasing the environmental impact of Camp operations (ex: renewable energy, waste reduction).
- Continued work to prioritize diversity and inclusion at Camp Onas

New wood sheds at the Overnight Site and the Campfire

Benches: Sam Neiger and Tyler Seale assisted Matt with a special project to build wood sheds at the Campfire Benches (May) and the Overnight Site (September).

The sheds were constructed entirely of materials that were already at camp, either repurposed or left over from previous projects.

The new sheds keep the wood dry, ready, and accessible in two of the more remote areas where we frequently build camp fires.

And last but not least, we opened registration for the 2020

Summer at the start of the December. If you know a current or

interested camper, please make sure you remind them that now is the time to sign up for camp!



New Overnight Site Wood Shed

2019 Summer Snapshots



Adult Alumni Reunion

September 12-13, 2020 Grab a permanent marker and start labeling your clothing now ... and while you're at it, mark your calendar!

Join us overnight or just for the day ... but whatever you do, **don't miss it!**

The Alumni Reunion is a great chance for adult alumni and their families to spend time at Onas with old and new friends. The reunion is an important fundraiser for Camp Onas, and a wonderful, not-to-be-missed event.

Keep an eye out for registration information starting in February, 2020. It will be emailed to alumni, and posted on social media.

Want to help plan the reunion weekend? We'd love your help and your ideas! Get in touch: friends@camponas.org

Send us your News!

Have something you'd like to share in the Alumni Newsletter? Updates, old and new photos, reflections on your time at camp ... we'd love to share them here! Send your info along to friends@camponas.org

Interested in Applying to Work at Camp Onas? (Or know someone who is?)

Counselor Applications for the 2020 Summer will be available on our website beginning on December 20, 2019. Application deadlines and requirements vary by position, visit camponas.org for more details. Email us: friends@camponas.org if you have questions!.

Staff Spotlight: Ashley Marrasso

2019 Directors Assistant, Princeton, NJ

Staff member, 2013-2019; camper 2010-2012

Favorite Program Areas: Pioneer, Pool, High Ropes

Favorite Theme Weekends: Megamind as a staff member; Alice and Wonderland as a camper.

On the experience of working at Onas “Camp has trained me to do things that most people my age don’t learn to do until later in life ... things like managing a large group of people, thinking on my feet quickly and effectively, and taking a lot of responsibility.”

On what makes Camp Onas special: “The simplicity of Camp life ... no phones, no electricity, and how small we are. Spending time hanging out, not looking at a screen and enjoying everybody being together without distractions from the outside world. We get to know almost everyone really well and feel comfortable.”

Proudest accomplishment from 2019: Working on the ACA (American Camp Association) Re-Accreditation visit. “It really taught me how camp operates, and why we do things the way we do. I learned a lot about the behind the scenes stuff that goes on to make camp run smoothly, and that was fun and interesting.”



Want to take a trip down Memory Lane?

We can help you out!

Photo albums from the last several summers are available on camponas.org and on our Facebook page. If you’re ever in the mood to get a bit nostalgic, or trying to remember what that weekend theme was, take a look online!

Looking for older photos? Thousands of photos from 1922-2012 are available on a USB flash drive called the **Onas Chronicle**, which is available for purchase for \$25.00 (half of the purchase price goes to the Neiger Gould Camper Fund).

The Onas Chronicle has all kinds of letters, photos, bunk lists, recordings of Onas songs, and more. It spans Onas history from 1922-2012. Interested? Drop us a line and we’ll give you more info. *(And yes, we are planning to do a 100th anniversary update in 2022 ... look for more news on that in about a year!)*

