

## YMCA Camp Potawotami Alumni - January 2024 Newsletter

Topher Schlatter <YMCAofGreaterFortWayne@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com>

Wed 1/10/2024 9:40 AM

To: Karen Kasprzak <Karen\_Kasprzak@fwymca.org>



### **What is new at Camp?!?!**

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#### **Two Mole Holes!**

That's right, everyone! Now you can now race your friend down the mole hole. A second mole hole was added next to the original thanks to a generous donation from The Jorgensen-Steven's Family. Everyone can have double the fun at this favorite Camp activity.



### **Arrowhead Lodge Foundation Project**

Everyone has fond memories at Arrowhead Lodge and our beloved historic Camp building is not going anywhere! In fact, it is getting some work done to protect and preserve for future generations! Arrowhead Lodge was built in 1931 and has served campers and guests every year since then. As many of you have seen, the foundation has developed cracks over the years.

In December 2023 the work began to secure the foundation, fill the cracks, pour new concrete and install gutters that drain away from the building. The work will be finished in the next couple of weeks. While you will not be able to see a huge difference once the work is complete, this work will help all campers and alumni enjoy Arrowhead Lodge long into our future.

During the April workday we plan to restore the upper porch by painting it and replacing missing rails. This summer we will add new chairs. This is the best place in all of Indiana to enjoy your morning coffee and we would love for you join us on the porch sometime this year! Overnight Camp runs all of June and July, reach out to Karen to schedule time visit and enjoy time on the porch this summer!

Check out the before and after images below!













*If you are interested in learning more about supporting Camp's future through in-kind and monetary donations, please reach out to Topher ([tophercbs@aol.com](mailto:tophercbs@aol.com)) or Karen ([karen\\_kasprzak@fwymca.org](mailto:karen_kasprzak@fwymca.org)).*

## **Alumni Gathering Join Us! Komets Hockey**



Bring your friends or family and reconnect with YMCA Camp Potawatami Alumni at a Komets game!

A block of seats has been reserved for **Sunday, February 18th**. We secured a discounted rate of \$24 per ticket just for you!

## **Mark Your Calendar Volunteer Workday at Camp**



Camp's volunteer work day is scheduled for April 14, 2024. Help Camp open up for the season by getting the grounds and program areas ready for summer! If you are missing Camp, volunteer workday is a great way to visit, give back, and reconnect with your camp friends.



The game starts at 5:00pm at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum located at 4000 Parnell Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

**Reserve your spot now!** We hope to see you there! There are a limited number of tickets available at that rate.

**Reserve your ticket through the link below:**

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Ymcacamp>

When: Sunday April 14  
Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Lunch is included and served at 12pm!

**Register by emailing [camp@fwymca.org](mailto:camp@fwymca.org)** the number of people in your family attending, ages of children and dietary restrictions.

*Bring work gloves, rakes, and other outdoor tools if you can!*

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## Camp Alumni Spotlight: Topher Schlatter & Lori (Lo) Henemyer Schlatter





**Years at Camp and Positions:**

**Topher :** Started as a camper in the early 1960s. Throughout the 70s I was a CIT, Counselor, Adventure Trip Leader, Resident Camp Director.

**Lo:** 1979 Summer. Little Girls Cabin and Overnight Director.

**Favorite Memory:**

**Topher:** Ted Heiney, he was a second father to me. The Campers and Staff, the comradery and fellowship. The feeling that I belong. Also, I found my kindred spirit. Lo and I have shared our lives for 41 years.

**Lo:** Ted's joyful spirit was truly a great example to behold and learn from. Adelle's Gorp and attempts to bring healthier snacks to mind. Inspired by the respect and drive toward authentic Native American themes and practices.

**Camp Favorites:**

**Topher:** Everything; sailing, scuba diving, swimming, rifle range, craft shop, canoeing, just to name a few. I always looked forward to Family Camp and Band Camp. My favorite meal was "Mystery Meat" with green beans and mashed potatoes.

**Lo:** The frequent antics during meals. Singing and Acting out Camp songs! Being outside, breathing fresh air and trying out every activity! I really loved archery and crafts. I even liked Garden Party!! Camp Songs, Award Ceremonies, Meeting the new campers, campfires, "teaching" about nature and the wonder of how it works. Camaraderie with staff. Trees at camp witnessing the growth of each life camp touched.

**Lesson Learned at Camp**

**Topher:** to appreciate the day as you live it.

**Lo:** to know that help is always needed and appreciated. Sharing and expanding friendships. Learning that a difference of opinion does not mean there is not common ground to be found.

**What do you hope for Camp's future?**

**Topher:** that it provides outdoor opportunities for all, for generations to come.

**Lo:** I hope Camp keeps touching lives of children, staff, parents of campers in the promises made at camp and a strong Alumni connection.

**Where are they Now?**

**Topher** retired from the Allen County Public Library April 2021 and now living the lake life (without the fishing). I am still involved with camp. I am now on the Camp Board, going on nine years.

**Lo** is working with special needs middle schoolers (DeKalb Middle School) as a Paraprofessional in the Language Arts Dept. This is a good semi retirement station in life as I await "Work Release!" Hopefully in 2 years Topher and I will celebrate my retirement and begin unrestricted camping and travel opportunities!

We love our house on Ball Lake, our rescue pups, and our continued connection to camp! God has provided a Life that's been Good to Us in happy and hard times after 41 years of marriage! Camp brought us together, and saw us renew our vows at our 40th anniversary. Camp Potawatomi is part of our history and souls. It's the place where I feel our son, Colter, found peace, friendship, and acceptance during his many years as a camper.

**Thank you, Topher and Lo!**

Topher not only Chairs the Alumni Committee, but is also a Camp Board Member! He gives of his time, talent and treasures regularly for Camp! Topher is heading up all Alumni gatherings and communications! Lo and Topher together donate to camp to ensure everyone has an opportunity to attend. They also pass the torch each year at staff training as they prepare the next generation of camp counselors for the adventures ahead of them. Thank you both for investing in camp's future!

### Say Hello To Topher and Lo!

If you shared a memory or moment with Topher or Lo, they invite you to reach out.

Topher's email: [tophercbs@aol.com](mailto:tophercbs@aol.com)

Lo's email: [bytenseek@aol.com](mailto:bytenseek@aol.com)

*If you know a Camp Alumni that deserves to be recognized email Karen at [karen\\_kasprzak@fwymca.org](mailto:karen_kasprzak@fwymca.org).*

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## Reconnect with Camp Join us on Facebook!



Alumni Form

The Alumni Committee is coming up with new and exciting ways to reconnect with you and reignite your camp memories. Let's celebrate the adventure and fun we had together at camp!

Use the button below to share your contact information and let us know about your camp experience. This form can be used multiple times so you can add yourself and also friends from camp.

We also have an active group of [alumni on Facebook](#). Join the fun to see camp updates in real time, reconnect with past friends and enjoy an uplifting space online.

Use button below to add alumni to our list.

## Join the Alumni Committee!

We are looking to add a few more alumni to YMCA Camp Potawatami's alumni committee! We would love if alumni were represented from each decade. The alumni committee meets quarterly throughout the year in Fort Wayne and once at Camp. A virtual option to participate may be available.

If you are interested in joining or learning more please reach out to Topher. Topher's email: [tophercbs@aol.com](mailto:tophercbs@aol.com)

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### Our Contact Information

YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne  
347 W Berry St. Suite 500

### Camp's Contact Information

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7255 E 700 S, Wolcottville, IN 46795



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