

MAIL CALL

SKYLAND'S INK-AND-PAPER ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

Steeped in History: Skyland Camp Releases 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book

Skyland Camp now has much of its rich history documented! In a clubhouse filled with Skyland memorabilia, author and alumna Patty Johnson shared with Skylanders the process by which she researched and wrote Skyland's 100th anniversary book, *In the Land of the Sky: Celebrating 100 Years of Skyland Camp for Girls 1917–2017*. The book traces Skyland's history from the late 1800s—before the Big House was even built—through the pre-Skyland eras, to the Susan Courtney Harris years, and beyond.

“Learning about when and how Granny Harris purchased what was then known as the Skyland Home Hotel was like finding buried treasure,” said Patty. For example, according to Skyland lore, Granny Harris bought the property at auction in 1917. Knowing this, Patty diligently searched archived information from 1916 looking for evidence. When there was none to be found, she broadened her search and was shocked to see the date of the auction was 1920. Was the long-told story about the start of Skyland not true? It was...but with a twist.

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FALL 2017

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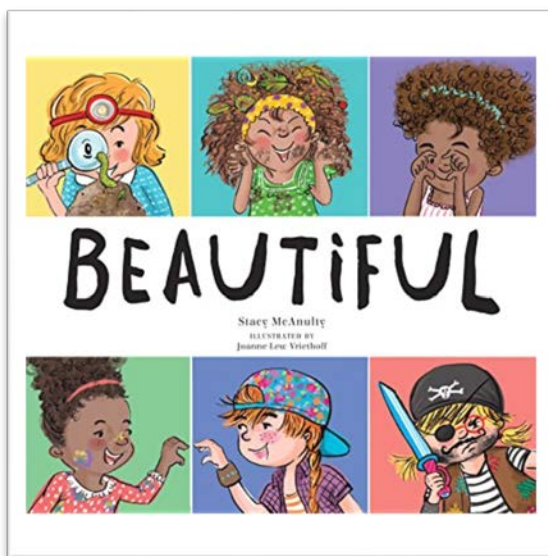
“Because of Skyland, I feel confident, strong, confident and connected to a community of incredible women.”
-Emma Krulick



Skyland Centennial Celebration

<p>Alumnae Work Weekend May 25-28, 2018</p> <p>Join us for our volunteer work weekend to ready Skyland for the summer! Reconnect with fellow alumnae. Alumnae and guests (21+) are welcome. skylandcamp.com/work-weekend/</p>	<p>Mother-Daughter Weekend June 8-10, 2018</p> <p>This popular weekend of mother-daughter bonding and trying out camp is ideal for moms and their K-6th grade daughters. skylandcamp.com/mother-daughter-camp/</p>	<p>Traditional Camp Sessions June 23-July 28, 2018</p> <p>Our traditional camp session is going to be better than ever as we enter our second 100 years of inspiring girls in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains! skylandcamp.com/camper-registration/</p>
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What We're Reading: *Beautiful*



Beautiful, written by Stacy McAnulty and illustrated by Joanne Lew Vriethoff (Hachette Books, September 2016), was a new book this summer in the Skyland library. Originally brought to our attention by 2017 Head Counselor, Emma Krulick, who received it as a college graduation gift from her mother, *Beautiful* quickly became a staff favorite and earned a place in the camp library.

The language and wording in *Beautiful* is powerful when combined with the illustrations of girls running, jumping, creating, getting dirty and messy, performing science experiments and otherwise showing their true selves to the reader.

We loved that the book boasted a multiracial cast, as well as girls of all abilities. While the book can easily be read in a traditional manner, enjoying the words and illustrations simultaneously, we opted to share it differently with staff, and encourage readers to consider trying what we did.

We introduced the book to staff, and asked them to close their eyes and listen to the words as the book was read aloud, and let pictures form in their minds instead of showing them the illustrations. At the end of the book, we took a few moments and asked for comments about how they felt hearing the story.

During the second reading, staff members viewed the illustrations in the book. Wow! What a difference and an eye-opening experience! When experiencing the words alone, some staff members had visceral experiences. The words seemed to support the messages that girls and women often hear about their gender, that we need to be clean, neat, focused on outward beauty rather than inward strength, in order to be considered “beautiful.” When those initially harsh-sounding words were paired with the illustrations, we were shown that graceful movements can be sliding into home plate, that a smart style can be about doing science experiments, and that girls can light up a room reading books by flashlight.

Beautiful is a perfect book for girls of all ages, and boys will benefit as well. The message from the book is that value, confidence and self-love shouldn't be about clothes, hair or style, but about who we are. *Beautiful* makes a great gift for a young child, as well as for a college graduate setting out into the world!

Skyland Spotlight: Cindy Krulick

Cindy Krulick has been coming to Skyland Camp for Girls since 2002—not as a camper, but as a member of the administrative staff, working in the camp’s musical theater program.

She started as a “Working Mom” when her daughters were young campers. Although her girls, Emma and Zoey, are now grown—moving up from camper to CIT to counselor to head counselor—Cindy returns to Skyland Hill each summer. “There’s something magical about being on Skyland Hill,” she says.

Cindy has been instrumental (pun intended!) in transforming Skyland’s musical theater program. With her very talented collaborator on staff, Lisa Sheldon, she added voice, music, and dance classes, then worked to produce a full-length musical every summer. “When I first started, the end-of-summer performance was sort of a talent show,” Cindy recalls. “In the past four years, we’ve actually done scripts that we license from Broadway Junior or Musical Theater International.” Under Cindy’s and Lisa’s direction, Skyland has performed “The Lion King,” “Annie,” “The Little Mermaid,” and “Beauty and the Beast.”

Her role at Skyland goes beyond these performances each summer: She’s been the driving force behind preserving the camp’s musical legacy. “There is a tradition on Sunday nights where the girls sing camp songs,” Cindy recalls. “When I joined Skyland, there was a songbook with about 40 songs—but no piano accompaniment—and some of the girls didn’t really know the songs. I saw the words in the book but there was no music written out.”

Cindy began to investigate, talking to people who had been at Skyland when the songbook originated. She discovered a recording of Frances Harris playing the camp songs. “When you listen to the recording of Frances Harris it is just phenomenal piano playing—a combination of ragtime [and] boogie woogie,” says Cindy. “I did my best to take what I could from Frances’ recordings, and from what people told me, to put together this songbook,” she says of her process of notating the music book. “Now when the



Skyland’s musical program administrator, Cindy Krulick

girls sing camp songs on Sunday nights, not only do they have words and piano accompaniment, they actually know the tunes to the songs.”

Cindy spearheaded a project to add contemporary music to the songbook. “We decided it would be appropriate to continue that tradition by adding songs that are popular now,” Cindy explains. “We were very careful to honor the tradition and chose songs that had meaning to the girls at Skyland; songs they would like to sing for years to come, just like we’ve enjoyed singing the songs that Granny Harris and Frances Harris added back when the original songbook was started.”

And when she’s not at Skyland? The things that she loves at camp are still a central part of her life—music and the outdoors. She’s a longtime music teacher, now teaching at the elementary school across the street from her home. “I’m starting to piggyback,” Cindy explains. “If I find something at camp that the girls really love doing, then I’ll do it the next year at my school. If I find a song my choir really loves, we’ll sing it the next year at camp.”

As she and her husband, Alan, edge closer to retirement, there may come a day when they decide to travel during camp season. But for now, Cindy says, “I can’t imagine being anyplace else in the summer.”

Steeped in History, continued from pg 1

Granny Harris had *leased* the property for her girls' summer camp for three seasons before the historic auction occurred, and fell in love with her Western North Carolina home-away-from-home in the process. Patty confirmed that Granny Harris did indeed purchase the hotel at auction, "proving that the story told over the years happened exactly how we heard it did." The auction simply happened three or four years after everyone had thought. "Finding an actual photo of the auction was icing on the cake," Patty explained. "There was the Big House, on a Skyland Hill nearly devoid of trees, with men in their formal coats and top hats awaiting the sale."

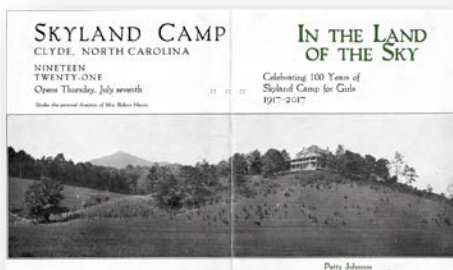
One can imagine Granny Harris emerging from the screen door behind the auctioneer in her long gingham dress and apron, exclaiming, "I'll give you \$3,000 for the whole kit and caboodle!" And one can almost hear the auctioneer—after imploring the men to offer up a bid to surpass this upstart woman—finally uttering the words that have shaped Skyland's history from that date: "Sold to the lady in the apron!"



Patty dug deeper into Granny Harris' background to learn more about this strong woman who built a legacy. Though Patty assumed that Granny Harris hailed from Jacksonville, Florida, where she lived when Skyland Camp began, she found that her family (the Courtneys) had a long history of roots in Virginia, where her father had founded a canning factory and left a large estate to his family. In fact, Patty spoke to one heir—great-grandson Lewis Courtney III—who still lives in the Mundy Point family home and who was able to confirm many details about Granny Harris.

Johnson's book is filled with early pictures of camp curated by alumna Suzanne Hoover Klimek from Helen (a.k.a. "Hempy") Harris' scrapbook, which contained invaluable information on Skyland's past. "She had every picture labeled with names underneath them," Bunny told the crowd, "It's just amazing. I admire her more and more as we go along ... for preserving all these things."

Bunny Brown still marvels at the strength and foresight of Granny Harris and, later her daughters, Frances and Hempy Harris: "It took strong women to do this," she said. She related how the Bishop of North Carolina once spoke at Skyland Camp, saying, "The women who started this camp are as sturdy as the oak trees that surround us." One hundred years of summer camp—more than a century of transforming the lives of girls and women—have proven this to be true.



To order your copy of *In the Land of the Sky: Celebrating 100 Years of Skyland Camp for Girls 1917–2017*, visit Skylandcamp.com/store.

Patty Johnson plans to write a second book about Skyland, this time including anecdotes from Skylanders through the years, to complement the camp's official history with personal stories. Stay tuned!

The Musical Legacy of Skyland: A Century of Song

Late on Saturday morning during Skyland's Centennial Celebration, strains of familiar songs could be heard wafting from the Clubhouse. With Skyland songbooks in hand, a special choir was rehearsing for their weekend performance. The choir, comprised of Skyland campers and alumnae ranging from 18 - 93 years old, with Bunny Brown anchoring the sea of voices from her spot at stage left, traded verses and choruses that captured the hearts of all. The lyrics were familiar, comforting and (mostly) known by heart from generations of Skyland choir performances.

This was a choir practice that truly represented Skyland's century of song. Under the direction of longtime staff member Cindy Krulick (2002-present), the voices of alumnae flowed together as if they'd been singing together all summer long, and not just the past 45 minutes.

As they practiced the song "For Good" from the musical *Wicked*, one of the family's dogs, curled up in front of the choir, was lulled to sleep by their sweet sounds as the choir sang words that captured the essence of camp friendships: "I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn. And we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them and we help them in return...I know I'm who I am today, because I knew you."

For Cindy, directing the choir from the songbook that was originally compiled by Frances Harris Brown is a treat. "It's such an honor for me to continue Skyland's musical legacy," Cindy said. "I never met Frances, but I feel I know her through these music books."

Frances was the daughter of Skyland's founder Susan Courtney Harris, and mother to Bunny's husband Tim. Frances was on Skyland Hill from Day one in 1917, and directed the camp (with sister Hempy) for many years.



Frances studied music, and arranged or wrote most of the songs in Skyland's songbook. According to Cindy, Frances often took old African American spirituals and wrote new words and arrangements. Her lyrics capture the Spirit of Skyland. Take the words to "Oh Have You Seen Camp Skyland," which brings us right back to Skyland Hill:

*Oh have you seen Camp Skyland when the sun is shining bright?
Or have you seen Camp Skyland on a still and starry night?
You can hear the laughter ringing and a little thread of song
And follow paths where footsteps swing so merrily along*

The songbook that Cindy uses is indeed special. "I've got Frances' handwritten arrangements of the songs she wrote for Skyland. I love that musical connection," says Cindy. *(continued on pg 6)*

She also loves the connection between generations that the Centennial weekend fostered. "The choir is open to everyone," she explained. "Young campers, counselors, administrative staff like me, and always Bunny. It is literally a choir for everyone from six on up. Bunny is 83 and a visiting alumna was 93. Everyone sings on Skyland Hill!"

"Altos only!" Cindy called out, and the altos in this makeshift, but accomplished, choir took over, practicing their portion of a special song they were readying for Sunday morning. The name of the song? It was the theme for all of Skyland's Centennial Celebration: "Remember."

Auction Raises More Than \$75,000 For Skyland's Campership Fund

Several years ago, we began thinking about the upcoming Centennial Celebration. Of course, our thoughts were taken back to Granny Harris. We wondered how much courage it took for her to march out on to the porch during the auction and place the final bid. And we wondered if she could possibly know what that single courageous decision would do for the future of girls here at Skyland Camp.

To honor her, as well as Skyland's origins, at the Centennial Celebration, there would be no better way than to create an auction environment where everyone could be involved. Skylanders could donate items for auction. They could purchase items from the auction. Friends and alumnae would be able to donate to the future of Skyland by providing money for scholarship for girls who may not otherwise be able to afford Skyland.

With kick-off speeches by Skyland alumnae Taye Cairnes, owner Sherry Brown, and Madi Weisberg, the live auction was underway. "Our goal for the weekend," said Kay Anderson, Senior Director, "was \$50,000. That would have been half of the \$100,000 goal for our Centennial Season. We knew it would be audacious...and we would be thrilled if it actually happened!"

Well, you should have been here on that Saturday night! With the help of Auction Diva's founder and chief auctioneer, Shelly St. John, the one-hour live auction brought in \$74,000 alone. If you believe in the "Spirit of Skyland" and synchronicities, this will give you the feels: that's equal to \$1000 for every summer that Bunny Brown has been on Skyland Hill. Now isn't THAT something to behold? Adding the proceeds from the silent auction, the grand total for the weekend event was \$77,000. We are now at \$82,000 and will meet our goal by December 31.

To donate to or learn more about Skyland's Campership fund, visit
SkylandCamp.com/Campership



Director's Corner

For years leading up to 2017, we looked forward to Skyland's Centennial Celebration: a time when we could celebrate the rich history of our beloved camp and reconnect with old friends. This edition of Mail Call is filled with wonderful stories and pictures from that weekend which many of us will never forget. Granny Harris created a very special place in 1917...a place which has lived in our hearts ever since.

It would be easy to sit back and take a "breather" at this point in Skyland's history, marveling at our collective success. But to do that would be to ignore the great opportunity we all have to use Skyland to make an even greater difference in the lives of girls and women.

I believe we are sitting atop a springboard from which we can do so much more. How can we continue to support and grow Skyland to ensure it is as important to the girls of 2050 as it has been for us? Can the nurturing and mentoring we have always done at Skyland be even more intentional to help girls stride confidently and authentically into the "real world"? And how can we offer more Skyland experiences to more girls? And to more women?

Skyland has always been a place where girls can fully disconnect from the "outside world" and be themselves, while forming life-long friendships in the process. It is what makes Skyland feel like "home" to so many of us, and what keeps us coming back.

Knowing this, we have created Mother/Daughter weekends, Women's Retreats, Equine Facilitated Leadership seminars, and Alumnae Work Weekends. We plan to roll out more of these get-back-to-Skyland opportunities so you all CAN come "home" to Skyland.

We have expanded our staff training to ensure that all staff members are able to perform at a very high level and expand their own leadership abilities for life outside of camp. Increasingly we look for college-aged women who are seeking a career in youth development, education, the service industry, or in leadership development. That mindset and education, combined with a passion for supporting others, helps our staff be wildly successful at Skyland. Our staff not only encourages girls to become the best versions of themselves, but also ARE the best versions of themselves at Skyland...every moment of every day.

Finally, we formed a tax-exempt Scholarship Fund through the American Camp Association, which many of you have generously funded to help more girls experience the gift of camp. During our Centennial Celebration weekend, we raised over \$75,000! That's UNBELIEVEABLE! We are hoping to increase that to \$100,000 by year-end: a thousand dollars for each year Skyland has been in operation. With just a few more donations, we will exceed our Centennial goal!

At Skyland, we believe we owe it to ourselves, our future, and to the world to continue to support girls and young women in achieving their highest potential. Thank you for all that you have done to support this vision and the Skyland legacy. We wouldn't be where we are today without you!

With love and much gratitude,



Sherry Brown, Executive Director

Friendly Rivalry: The History of Tallyho and Trossach

Almost as long as there has been a Skyland Camp for Girls, there has been a friendly camp rivalry each summer. New campers are named to one of two teams—Tallyho or Trossach—to take part in games each session. But did you know it wasn't always so?

In old camp photos, the familiar T&T (Tallyho and Trossach) banners are missing. Instead, in one picture, you can spy a banner with an animal mascot on it, harking back to when the camp teams were the Lions and the Bears. In fact, it wasn't until the 1920s that the Tallyho and Trossach teams made their appearance.

So how did the teams we know so well today end up with these unusual names? According to Bunny Brown, camp leaders at the time decided they needed more sophisticated team names. They all liked the sound of "Tallyho," which has its origins in British fox hunting as a cry used to excite the hounds before a hunt. It's a word that just sounds good when shouted out loud.



But there were two teams, and the other needed an equally cultured title to match Tallyho. As Bunny tells the story, "They needed something that started with a *T* and something that would work in rhymes with Tallyho. So they went through the dictionary and found 'Trossach.'" The Trossachs are a scenic woodland glen area in Scotland, but you won't find anyone there pronouncing it with a long "o" sound, as is familiar to generations of Skyland campers. "They mispronounced it so that it would go well with Tallyho," Bunny explains. In Scotland, the "o" in *Trossach* has a short sound, and when pronounced it rhymes with "draw."

During Skyland's Centennial Celebration in August, the Tallyho and Trossach banners were again flying high on Skyland's game courts. Skylanders from our one-hundred-year history faced off in a special, all-ages T&T games series, including volleyball, ring tennis, and Newcomb ball. With faces painted in their team colors, the two teams gathered on each side of the court: Trossachs in white, Tallyhos in green.

It was clear that once you're a Tallyho or Trossach, you are always a Tallyho or Trossach. The team spirit was high as the two teams engaged in a "chant-off" across the net, with claps, foot stomps, and rhythmic shouting for at least ten minutes of pre-game cheers, all remembered by heart, long after some players had spent their last summer at camp.

This powerful team spirit is a large part of what reconnects campers every summer. Through teamwork, collaboration, and competition between Tallyho and Trossach, lifelong friendships are formed on these game courts. We may be rivals on either side of the net, but at the end of the day, back in our cabins, we join together as one Skyland.

Because of Skyland...

At our Centennial Celebration, attendees couldn't stop talking about the many positive ways their camp experience had influenced their lives, and they even put pen to paper to share that impact. Attendees were invited to pen "Because of Skyland..." notes outlining the ways that camp has enriched them over the years.



"Because of Skyland, I feel blessed that my girls got a home and a family away from their home and will have strong connections and friendships that will last."

"Because of Skyland, I learned to be who I was as a young girl, who I am today as a strong woman, and look forward to who I will be someday."

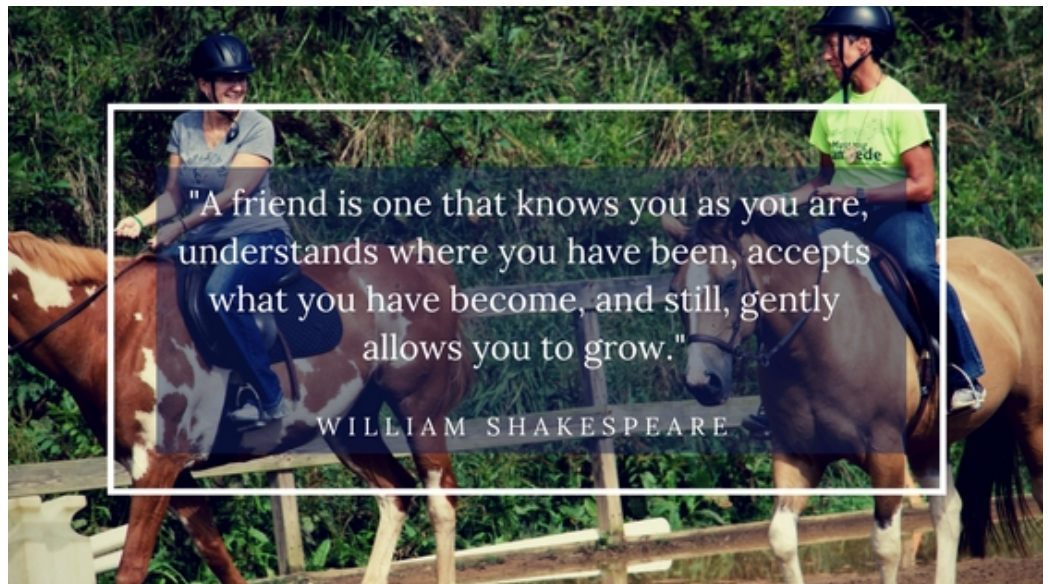
"Because of Skyland, I feel confident, strong, and connected to a community of incredible women leaders."

"Because of Skyland, I know that no matter where I am in the world, there is a place where I belong and there are people I belong with. This is heaven on Earth."



Thank you to the Centennial Celebration committee for making the August event one that will be remembered for decades:

- Taylor (Orr) Becker*
- Dianna Fischer*
- Suzanne (Hoover) Klimek*
- Emma Krulick*
- Cris (Scott) Tennant*
- Susan Threlkel*
- Madi Weisberg*
- Darden Yerkes*



Alumnae Updates

Share your own memories, updates, and lessons learned when you update your alumnae record.
Update online at SkylandCamp.com/alumnae

Barbara Majure ('47-'49, '51), known at Skyland Camp as Barbara Scott, has been happily married for 62 years. She has lived in La Jolla, CA, for half a century and continues to play tennis three days a week. A lifelong Tallyho, she has fond memories of Skyland Hill.

Sally Linebaugh Worley ('54-59), niece of Sue Linebaugh (Skyland's crafts counselor 1954-59, now deceased) lives in Monticello, Florida. After 25 years of teaching third, fourth, and kindergarten, she became a storyteller and musician with her husband, Sam Worley. "My days at Skyland are with me, as I sing some of the songs I first learned at camp and play the same ukulele I took to camp!"

Lauren Scott (2005-09) graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2016 and will be graduating with a Master's in Environmental Management (Business and the Environment) from Duke University in 2019.

Margaret (Meg) McDonald Tonkinson (1956) graduated from Florida Technological University. She worked at the University of Florida-Shands Teaching Hospital, Clinical Labs for 28 years before she retired in 2005. Meg is married and lives in Archer, Florida. She has one stepson who lives outside of St. Louis, Missouri, and one nephew who lives in Daytona Beach, Florida with his daughter. Meg is originally from Daytona Beach, Florida.

Anne Mullen Kutchmire ('61-'64) has been happily married to her husband, Jack, for 48 years. She lives in Tampa, Florida, working as a Registered Nurse in Labor and Delivery. A member of a family with many relatives who have attended Skyland Camp over the years, her most recent visit to the Hill was as a Centennial reunion attendee with her granddaughter, Hannah Rago, who was a third generation Skylander.

Favorite Memories

Kirsten Hagstrom-Rodriguez ('77-81): "Fun on campouts, especially the one on horseback up Chambers Mountain. Tallyho/Trossach competitions. Talent Show! Sunday night vespers and singing camp songs. Riding everywhere in the cattle truck!"

Gayle Spurr ('63-65): "My favorite memories include...everything! Pigeon River outing, flag raising in the morning, singing in the choir, Sunday lunch with hot fudge sauce and ice cream."



Skyland alumna Desiree Bell introduces her daughter to Bunny, Sherry, and Skyland Hill during Mother-Daughter Weekend.

SINCE 1917
SKYLAND CAMP FOR GIRLS

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Skyland Camp for Girls inspires girls to be curious, creative, confident and connected to each other, and to the world.

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