

*You are worried about seeing him spend his early years in doing nothing.
What! Is it nothing to be happy? Nothing to skip, play, and run around all day long?
Never in his life will he be so busy again.
~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1762*

Camaraderie

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Le bulletin des Camarades de Canoe Island French Camp

Fall 2010

Director's Note: *Summer Camp for All Campaign*

Dear Canoe Island Friends,

We would like to personally thank all of you who have been able to help support CIFIC this year either through a direct donation to our camp scholarship fund, by voluntarily paying for your child's camp session at one of the higher tuition levels that more fully cover our capital expenses, or by a direct donation to help with capital projects here at camp.

Each summer some of our campers approach us with requests for financial aid – young people we would very much like to have in our camp sessions, but who are just not able to completely fund a two- or three-week session. This past summer 26 of our campers received partial financial aid to allow them to participate in our summer camp programs. These campers took an active part in their scholarship application by asking a teacher to write a letter of recommendation for them and by writing a personal letter about their interest in French language and culture and how they think they would fit into and benefit the French camp community. In this way we are assured that we are using your donated dollars in a responsible way. We have never been disappointed in the caliber of the young people who come to camp with your assistance.

In 2010 campers received \$28,731 in financial aid, or an average of \$1105 per camper. But only about 31% was covered by donations, while the remaining 69% (\$19,586) was taken out of our operating budget. Our mission is to provide excellent educational and recreational summer opportunities to children, and we believe helping outstanding young people attend camp, regardless of their financial means, is worth this camp expenditure. However, if we could raise a full \$30,000 per year in donations for our scholarship fund, those operating expenses, now used to cover financial aid, could be used for many of the needed facility improvement projects that have been waiting their turn for funds. Current projects in the works include fire-resistant metal roofs throughout camp, replacement of our old floating dock, new odor-free composting toilets, and a covered meeting/campfire area for use during inclement weather.

This year we are establishing a scholarship fund campaign, Summer Camp For All, and will be asking you, via Facebook, Twitter, email newsletters, and our website to make Canoe Island French Camp's scholarship fund one of the charities you support. Whatever level suits your budget suits us. Even a small donation will help provide an excellent summer experience for a child who is really interested in the outdoors and all things French. You can write us a check or click the Donate button under Support CIFIC on our website: www.canoeisland.org. Please fill out the donation form and send it to us.

A fun and active way to donate is to take part in one of our benefit weekends on Canoe Island. Our annual Yoga Benefit Weekend (this year May 22-24) brought in \$3,000 to our scholarship fund last year, and we are in the midst of planning a second benefit Canoe Island weekend of chocolate and French pastry classes taught by chefs from France. Save the date of May 13-15, and stay in touch for more details this winter.

With your help we will be able to meet our goal of \$30,000 to help bring children to Canoe Island French Camp.

Thank you,

Joseph & Connie Jones, Directors



*Joseph & Connie Jones watching campers
at play on Shaw Beach*

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Bienvenue, Sandra Gavillot, Canoe Island's New Marketing & Program Coordinator

We are excited to welcome Sandra Gavillot to Canoe Island French Camp's full-time staff beginning in January. Sandra is a great outdoorswoman and loves to live in remote places, which is an important qualification for living on an island where multiple boat rides lead to any event, shopping, or friends! Growing up with French and American parents, she brings native French and English language skills to our program. She has lived at length in La Réunion, Paris, and Arizona, taught both French and English, and traveled in Japan and Australia. She attended Northern Arizona University where she received her degree in International Hospitality Management. This winter she will be visiting schools, attending camp fairs and



Sandra kayaking on an October visit to Canoe Island

language teacher conferences to tell others about our summer camps; keeping Canoe Island's Facebook and Twitter pages full of photographs and news; and letting all of you know about our upcoming events. Come May she will be an integral part of our growing shoulder season programming for schools and adults including two schools that have requested French immersion programs. During the summer she will insure that French and French culture are in all aspects of the program. She has already embraced her new job with gusto, writing the articles on these two pages. We look forward to working with her.

How I Came to Love Canyoneering *By Sandra Gavillot*



Sandra in Canyonlands National Park

I have always loved being outside. I grew up on a lush island – La Réunion in the Indian Ocean which is a French *département*, with an active volcano similar to the ones in Hawaii. My brothers and I used to go on long treks through dramatic scenery with our parents when we were still babies. I remember when my father bought me my first backpack and tent when I was only six. I still have the tent, even though it is now mangled and unrecognizable with duct tape. The island is small, but for a child, the multi-day treks were truly epic. When my family was not hiking, we were at the beach spending entire days with a mask, studying the shallow waters of the lagoons. Often we even forgot to eat lunch, and stayed in the warm Indian Ocean water until sunset. It is then not a surprise, that today I feel most at ease in either water, on muddy trails, or in a tent.

When my mother decided to move back to her native land, North America, I had no choice but to leave behind my island, friends and all its spicy and eclectic food. We moved to what I thought was a dry and hot pointless desert, far from anything fun to explore except rocks and rattlesnakes. We arrived in Phoenix, Arizona, in the middle of August. I did hate it, I won't lie. It took a few years to get used to speaking English,

appreciate the landscape and find a store with familiar cheese and chocolate. We continued hiking, and luckily it did not take long to realize the richness and the amazing geology of the Southwest. Finding water became our biggest priority when exploring the vast territory of the Tonto National Forest. Passionate about maps, we started going more and more off-trail, to find rivers and water holes, which eventually led us inside canyons. The more interesting parts of the canyons were inaccessible to us because we did not have technical rope skills. So, I started reading lots of books and took an internship with a guiding service company in Zion National Park.

I became quickly passionate about canyoneering (also called canyoning in Europe), a multi-sport activity with hiking, orienteering, climbing, and swimming. The main objective is to simply follow a watercourse as if you were a small drop of water. Sometimes, the canyon is wide with tall walls and small creek running at the bottom. Sometimes it is barely wider than your shoulders, and you cannot see the sky as the walls twist and turn. Some are very short and full of water, and others are long and dry. Not one canyon is the same. It's a bit like rock-climbing, but you are going down instead of up. Canyoneering is considered an extreme sport, because often you end up in very isolated areas, and a lot of common sense and rope knowledge is needed.

I played every day in Zion National Park for a full year, but I was missing France and especially the *pain au chocolat* hot from the oven. I returned and started looking for places to canyoneer there. The best place I found is in Sierra de Guara, at the base of the Spanish Pyrénées. Imagine fields of almond and olive trees and small quiet villages where you can see old Spaniards snoozing on benches and you can smell the hot earth baking in the sun. In this landscape are hidden narrow canyons, where turquoise water forces

continued from page 2...

itself through rock. The cool water comes straight from the high Pyrénées Mountains, unlike in the Southwest of the US, where the water is often brown and musty. I worked for a French adventure company in the summer taking groups of French teenagers to Spain to experience the thrilling beauty of this land in a safe but adventurous environment. Everyone admitted that being outside, even though tiring, was a lot more fun than playing computer games. My objective was to help the teens realize how important it is to respect our environment. Only by having fun and admiring nature's beauty first hand can we learn to respect and appreciate our world.

I look forward to being on Canoe Island this year discovering its secrets. This winter I will be spreading the word about this remarkable program that combines so many of my interests and this spring and summer I will be helping to coordinate the French language and culture camps for children and adults.

I encourage you all to go outside and discover! Partez à la découverte!

Une Bonne Adresse -- rédigé par Sandra.

In the relatively small town of Corvallis, Oregon, one would not expect a great deal of choice for gourmet treats. My brother and his wife have been living in this town for about three years now, and it was only recently, that we decided to enter this tastefully decorated bakery shop, Le Patissier. We are French, and critical by nature, so we had low expectations. We were greeted by an exceptionally charming waiter dressed in a traditional white baker's coat. I was so impressed when I ordered the pain au raisin -- slightly exaggerating the French accent -- that the waiter understood me. Curious, we ordered each of the pastries, and to make the outing even more special, we ordered the crêpes made to order, with homemade plum jam. Each item was fresh, pure butter heaven, and tasted just like it would in a bakery in France. The service was fast, and the tables where we could enjoy our chocolat chaud were dressed in a white table cloth. The prices were reasonable, and actually cheaper than the fancy grocery store down the street. Didier Tholognat, the owner, came out to socialize with some regulars. He was very French! He wore the baker's uniform, flour on his hands and had a thick accent. We grabbed a warm baguette on the way out, and as I always did in France, I broke off the "quignon" (the end of the baguette), and I have to admit it was all pretty good.

So, if you're in that Corvallis neighborhood, it is well worth stopping there for breakfast or lunch, or just to take away some French pastries to eat on your way.



Le Patissier
956 NW Circle Blvd.
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
541-752-1785

Wednesday through Friday
6:30 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Qu'est-ce que c'est?

On the 2011 brochure that you will receive in January (and shown here), is a small square bar code, called a **QR code** (for Quick Response). This code can be read by the camera on a smartphone or other phone with a QR app. If you read our QR code with your smartphone, you will be shown our URL which you can then click to go directly to our updated website. A bit of trivia: the concept was originally created by Toyota subsidiary Denso-Wave in 1994 to quickly track car parts.



Seattle friends, give us a review!

Parentmap, one of Seattle's monthly parenting magazines, has an online directory of camps and classes as well as events for families and children. They give their readers the opportunity to review each of the organizations. Canoe Island French Camp is listed under camps but is yet to receive a review. If you have enjoyed your stays on Canoe Island, please let others know what you think by going to http://www.parentmap.com/index.php?option=com_pm_directory&task=details&id=2013 and "rating" us.

Merci beaucoup.

Canoe Island French Camp Campers and Staff Attend Orcas Island Music Festival



An impromptu off-island trip took place in August during Session 4 when campers and staff were offered free tickets to the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival. Eleven campers and three staff heard the music of Robert and Clara Schumann performed by Aloysia Friedmann, viola and violin; Jon Kimura Parker, piano; Martin Chalifour, violin; James Dunham, viola; Andrew Staup, piano, and Anne Martindale Williams, cello. Pictured with the Canoe Island group are in back row, Taylor Sproed, Jon Kimura Parker (in white jacket), the Festival's Artistic Advisor, and to his left, pianist Andrew Staup. In front row center, Ben Straub, CIFIC Caretaker and to the right, Connie Jones, Camp Director

Le Coin Français -- par Sandra

Cette dictée est incroyable mais vraie. Ne manquez pas de la lire, c'est surprenant. On dira après que le français n'est pas compliqué ! Ce petit texte, que je vous laisse savourer est une dictée trouvée dans un vieil almanach.

Monsieur Lamère a épousé Mademoiselle Lepère. De ce mariage, est né un fils aux yeux pers. (*pers = entre vert et bleu). Monsieur est le père, Madame est la mère. Les deux font la paire. Le père, quoique père, est resté Lamère, mais la mère, avant d'être Lamère était Lepère. Le père est donc le père sans être Lepère, puisqu'il est Lamère et la mère est Lamère, bien que née Lepère. Aucun des deux n'est maire. N'étant ni le maire ni la mère, le père ne commet donc pas d'impair en signant Lamère. Le fils aux yeux pers de Lepère deviendra maire. Il sera le maire Lamère, aux yeux pers, fils de Monsieur Lamère, son père, et de Mademoiselle Lepère, sa mère. La mère du maire meurt et Lamère, père du maire, la perd. Aux obsèques, le père de la mère du maire, le grand-père Lepère, vient du bord de mer et marche de pair avec le maire Lamère, son petit-fils. Les amis du maire, venus pour la mère, cherchent les Lamère, ne trouvent que le maire et Lepère, père de la mère du maire, venu de la mer, et chacun s'y perd !*

Vous êtes toujours là ?

French Student Exchange Opportunity

Canoe Island camper, Astrid Duhamel, 15, is looking for a family with a similarly aged son or daughter to share a cultural/educational exchange in 2011/2012. Astrid has come to Canoe Island French Camp for three summers to improve her English while providing French language and culture to American campers. Her mother, Véronique Lamblé, would like her to attend the same private or public school as the American teenager and will pay for school tuition and a clothing and personal allowance, if the family will take care of her housing and food. The Duhamel family will welcome the American teenager into their home and school the following year. Alternatively, if the family would like a French exchange student to share their home without sending their own child to France, the Duhamel family would also pay for part of her accommodation and food. You can contact Véronique at v.lamble@free.fr



Astrid Duhamel

Les Fiançailles d'Eugenie Howell et Mathieu Lemerle

By Eugenie Howell, animateur de 2007 & 2008

Canoe Island French Camp 2008

Mathieu likes to say that he traveled 8,000 kilometers to Canoe Island from Lille, France to find me. We met during the summer of 2008 when we were both counselors on Canoe Island. I was teaching kayaking, and Mathieu was a lifeguard and sports instructor. I had just graduated from UCLA and was going back to Canoe Island for my second summer, and Mathieu was coming to the United States for the first time. We taught French together the entire summer, the first two sessions with the *moyen* class and the last two with the *débutant* class. To quote Canoe's policy on counselor relationships: "AMOUR!! Some of you may have romantic feelings towards others on staff this summer. While this is normal, these feelings must be totally invisible to campers". Unfortunately, we were not very good at hiding our relationship. *Nous sommes désolés, Connie.*

France 2008-2009

Before we met, I had already decided to teach English in Nantes, France, Seattle's sister city, the year following my second summer on Canoe Island. SNCF (the railway company in France) benefited greatly from our long-distance relationship as we often made the four-hour trip between Nantes and Lille. I started teaching, and Mathieu began his third year of his five-year Master's apprentice program at ICAM School of Engineering. As a part of the apprenticeship, Mathieu worked at Procter and Gamble in Amiens for 3 months and then went to school for 3 months, alternating throughout the year.

France 2009-2010

After my teaching job ended, I wanted to stay in France and even move to Lille, so, I decided to do a one-year Master's program in International Business at IESEG School of Management in Lille. This program was truly an international experience as the students and professors came from all over the world, and Lille itself is conveniently located near London, Brussels and Paris. At the start of Mathieu's fourth year, his apprentice program took him to the Procter and Gamble plant in Barcelona, Spain, where he worked for two months.

When my classes ended, I had to find an internship in order to validate my diploma. After 2 months of seemingly endless applications and interviews, I found a 6-month marketing internship with the Adeo Group in Lille. This group is in charge of Leroy Merlin, which is basically the European equivalent of Home Depot.

At the beginning of his fifth year, Mathieu was selected to complete a final research internship at a university abroad. Again, after a lot of applications, Mathieu found a research scholar position specializing in the development of new materials at Harvard University in Boston, MA.



Eugenie says, "Oui!",
France 2010

The Proposal

Mathieu proposed to me on Friday, October 22, 2010. In September, he had written a letter to my parents back in Seattle asking for their permission, and they were really good at keeping the secret from me. He surprised me after work with a homemade dinner, complete with champagne, flowers, candles, and last, but not least, a diamond ring. Ooh la la! Comme c'est romantique!

End of 2010 and the future

Mathieu has finished the school part of his Master's program and is currently working at Procter and Gamble until the end of January when my internship ends. We are looking forward to our move to Boston where Mathieu will start his six-month scholar research position at Harvard.

Canoe Island will always be such a special place for us and we cannot wait to come back soon! We are planning to get married in the fall of 2011 and hopefully we will be able to celebrate this special day with many Canoe Island French Camp friends!

Les Nouvelles

Bob Schuh, husband of long-time Canoe Island French Camp volunteer nurse, Glenda Schuh, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on November 1. Bob and Glenda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family in Hawaii this past summer. Being a part of the first family camp weekend followed by many others plus Maria's 30th birthday party on Canoe Island hold many happy memories.

Angela Light Beebe (Program Director 2002-2004) gave birth to son Raffaele Wolf Beebe on July 16. Originally from Baildon, Shipley England, Angela now lives in the Bay area with her husband Derek. Raf already took his first European trip to England and Italy at 2 months old, and Angela is looking forward to him being a Canoe Islander in a few years.



Jennifer Douglas (counselor 2010) is working as an au pair, just outside of Paris.

Mathei Alexianu (2008, 2009 camper) is studying at Oxford University, England.

Caroline Cannesson (counselor 2007, 2010) is working as an au pair in Freiburg-In-Breisgau, Germany.

2011 Schedule

Register online: www.CanoelIsland.org



CAMPERS

Open House
Saturday, June 25

Session 1 La Révolution Française
Sunday, June 26-Friday, July 8 (\$1985)

Session 2 Les Voyageurs
Sunday, July 10-Friday, July 29 (\$2745)

Session 3 Le Monde Francophone
Sunday, July 31-Friday, August 19 (\$2745)

Session 4 Les Chevaliers
Sunday, August 21-Friday, September 1 (\$1945)



ADULT & FAMILY CAMPS

Spring Work Weekend
Friday-Sunday, April 22-24 (\$30/person)

**French Pastry Taught by French Chefs
Benefit Weekend**
Friday-Sunday, May 13-15 (\$950/person)

Adult Yoga Benefit Weekend
Friday-Sunday, May 20-22 (\$215/person)

Memorial Day Weekend Family & Adult Camp
Friday-Monday, May 27-30 (\$230/person)

Labor Day Weekend Family & Adult Camp
Friday-Monday, September 2-5 (\$230/person)



Camaraderie

Editor
Connie Jones

Guest Contributors
Eugenie Howell
Sandra Gavillot

Design
Jessica Haag

