

2025 Heart & Soul recipient



The Heart & Soul Award is the paramount recognition of volunteers who have given extraordinary dedication, commitment, and service to YMCA Camp Silver Creek.

This year's recipient is Jo Jablo. Jo worked at YMCA Camp Silver Creek in the mid-90s, as well as working full time at the Y to support camping programs. Since 2019, she has been a strong supporter of the CSCAA with the Board, as an officer, and through countless volunteer hours.

Jo is an amazing part of the John Mistkawi CSCAA Golf Tournament Organizing committee for many years, organizes postcard writing to camp staff, collects information for and distributes the CSCAA newsletter, and is one of the frontline faces for the CSCAA every week for camp check-in on Sundays.

As Secretary, she definitely keeps the CSCAA Chair on schedule for meetings and communications. The Camp Silver Creek Family would not be the same without the amazing efforts of Jo Jablo.



John Ross, Jerry Woodcock, Jo Jablo, Guy Greider and Jim Trett gathered in the late summer to distribute some of Mike Smith's ashes "out beyond the Hemlock grove..."

Winner (cont.)

Camp director Adrienne (Fraggle) said "The inaugural Mike Smith award is being awarded to a staff member who truly sees the best in others. This staff member approaches situations with a mind for creativity and a positive attitude: they truly want to see camp thrive. Throughout this summer, those who've worked under them have shared feeling supported and inspired by their leader, and we have seen staff members grow under their mentorship. Camp has been made better by this person being here. The 2025 Spirit of Leadership Award is presented to: Albatross."

Deep Thoughts by Jim

Hello everyone. I hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to the upcoming holiday season. It was another successful summer at camp. Over 900 campers experienced the magic and fun of camp this summer. I had the pleasure of spending some time at camp this summer and saw kids having fun and involved in camp traditions like Raggers and the Friday night candlelight campfire.

We continue to work with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on a plan to replace the pool. The Parks Department are working on a plan to address needs not only of Camp Silver Creek, but the entire Silver Falls State Park. They say they are getting close to completing the plan. Please see the article in this newsletter from Guy Greider about what's happening.

At the CSCAA Board meeting held on November 19th at the Salem YMCA, we began discussions on ways we can make our organization and it's mission of supporting camp in it's mission of providing an outstanding experience for kids. Stay tuned for reports on our efforts and ideas on how you can become involved.

Finally, this summer CSCAA introduced a new award that will be presented each year to a camp staff person who best exemplifies the quality leadership embodied by Michael G. Smith, long time friend and supporter of camp. This year's recipient is Henry Mainwaring (Albatross). Congratulation Henry on a job well done.

I hope you all have a fantastic holiday season.

Jim



CAMP SILVER CREEK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fall 2025

Summer Days....



Mike Smith Award winner

As we neared the end of our 2025 Silver Creek camping season, the inaugural version of a special new award was presented. A small group of CSCAA officers and friends, in consultation with Michael G. Smith's family members, collaborated on the award. Mike was a counselor at 15 and rumor has it he had 2 cabins. (Caveat .. we all know that's not legal now !) Later he went on to be a unit Director, a Camp Director at the Berkeley, California YMCA - then back to Silver Creek as camp director in 1973. Mike was the impetus behind the Golf Tournament and the CSCAA, having also led many camp repair projects by then. Mike was a teacher, with nature and especially Silver Creek, his favored class room.

Kids wouldn't just play in the creek under Mike's watch, they'd turn over rocks, learn what the bugs they found were and about their life cycle too! Walking down a trail would double an exciting botany lesson. His leadership style always drew others in and was a joy to witness. For both kids and fellow staff alike it would become an exciting adventure. In deference to Mike's humility, our consensus in honoring him was that "The Spirit of Leadership Award" main focus is to shine the light on a Silver Creek staff member. They're the ones doing the good work each year, leaving an impact that will last a lifetime.

As intended, the award reads:

The Spirit of Leadership Award In recognition of the Camp Silver Creek staff member who best exemplifies the qualities of transformational leadership embodied by Michael G. Smith, long time friend and supporter of camp, youth and YMCA values. "The Spirit of Leadership" award is presented to: **Henry Mainwaring - (Camp name Albatross) - August 2025**

see Winner, page 4



The Camp Silver Creek Alumni Association mission is to support, preserve and strengthen YMCA camping at Camp Silver Creek. The CSCAA comprises any Camp Silver Creek alumni, staff (current and former), and community members who believe that camp is an essential part of childhood. Get more involved with the CSCAA by emailing contact.cscaa@theyonline.org

Macht memorial

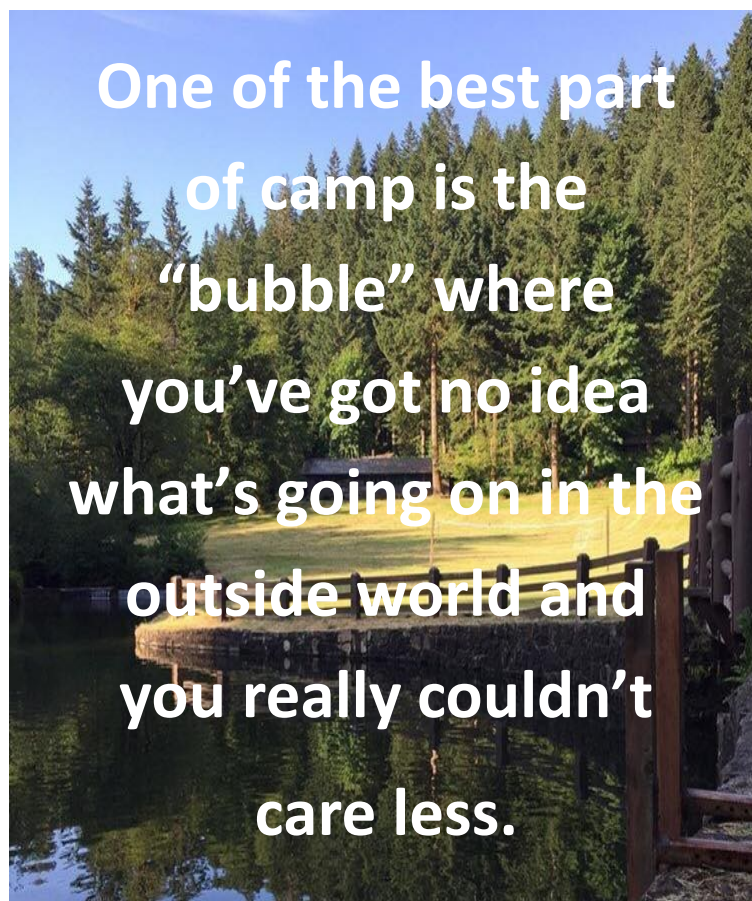
In honor of Amy Hudkins Macht, who passed away last spring, Chuck Hudkins graciously asked for memorial donations to be directed to the CSCAA.

Over \$2000 has been received in Amy's memory. At the August CSCAA meeting, it was decided to use this money for one or two "larger" projects at camp. A committee was formed and met in September. The take away from that meeting was 1. replace the Huckleberry bush with a plant/plants suited to the environment; 2. assist with putting in a new dock; and 3. help refurbishing the campfire circle.

Jim Trett and Jo Jablo met with Park Ranger Jason in October to discuss these options. He stated they were good projects and also already on the Parks list of projects. Jason asked that we work with Champoege Nursery and the park's horticulturist to select plants, and with the park to do the actual planting.

The park does not allow memorial plaques permanently attached to anything, so we are looking into a plaque/stone that can be moved out in the fall for a "in memory" dedication.

Planting will hopefully take place this fall and other work will be conducted next spring.



Pool replacement update

On October 15, 2025 Venessa Fiedler, YMCA Senior Director of Youth Programs and Services, Jim Trett, President of the Camp Silver Creek Alumni Association and Guy Greider, Camping Committee Chair met with Guy Rodrigue, OPRD and Ryan Sparks, OPRD. The purpose of the meeting was to ask that the pool replacement project at Silver Creek be separated from the work of the Camp Silver Creek Reinvestment Working Group. That group is tasked with developing a sustainable economic model for the necessary ongoing maintenance at camp.

While we did not get the answer that we wanted, the meeting was a productive discussion and the point was made that the new pool would not cost the state any money which was a concern. Further meetings are scheduled and it is hoped that progress can be made.



Fraggle reflects

This summer at Silver Creek was a great one! We had 927 unique campers attend CSC, and overall provided \$28k in scholarships. Some summer highlights included an all Y staff event during early June, the great CSCAA work party and annual meeting, the golf tournament, and getting to spend so many amazing days at camp with our incredible campers and staff.

Officers for the 25-26 year are:

Chair: Jim Trett

Vice chair: Jerry Woodcock

Secretary: Jo Jablo

Treasurer: Robert Braendle

They can all be reached at:
cscaa@theyonline.org



On July 28 golfers gathered at Creekside Golf Course for the 28th CSCAA John Mistkawi Memorial Golf tournament. Creekside Golf Club welcomed golfers and volunteers to their facility to combine their efforts in support of the important mission of sending kids to camp - regardless of their family's financial situation.

We were just shy of a full set of teams this year, but along with many wonderful sponsors, over **\$40,000** was raised this year and handed over to the camp scholarship fund.

For the fourth year in a row, **Donofrio Dealerships** stepped up as our Title Sponsor. Their donations served as a great base to build off of. Also thanks to **Northwest Natural** and **Great Harvest** for the delicious bagged lunches they provided and to **Paradiso on the Green** for a great dinner! **Jeff Glodt** and **Grain Station** provided the drinks for the afternoon.

Other major donors include **Bark Boys**, **Bliss-Sequoia**, **Mike Riddle Construction**, **Banner Homes**, **Cascade Tires** and **PGE**.

The Camp Store once again allowed golfers to direct their monies to benefit program support at camp and raised over \$2000. This has been a great way to target specific needs at camp and is a feature that will continue at future tournaments.

Committee chair Hector Garcia and the Golf Tournament Committee worked tirelessly to make the tournament happen. "It was wonderful to see so many golfers and sponsors participate in raising money for camperships for 2025. And I want to thank everyone on the committee who worked so hard to have a successful event." said Garcia.

Christmas is coming!

Looking for a great Holiday gift for a CSC Alumni?

Camp Silver Creek gear is available for purchase on our website at <https://campsilvercreek.creator-spring.com>.

T shirts, sweatshirts and other goodies are available to order. Get your gift shopping done now!



Help support the CSCAA

Have you noticed that CSCAA doesn't charge it's members dues? That's because we want to encourage all alumni to get involved, regardless of their income.

However, we do incur some expenses over the year. Meals are provided for some meetings and work-days, funds are donated to Camp to help pay for trainings, retreats and end of the summer parties, holiday postcards are bought and

mailed, and this newsletter has to be printed.

Where does this money come from? Gracious donors like you. Can you spare us the cost of a cup of coffee once a month? It would be greatly appreciated!!

Please scan and click on the QR symbol above to go to our donation page. It will only take you a few minutes to choose your amount, sign up and help support us in all we do.

Do you have questions or need help? Contact Jeremiah at cscaa@theyonline.org.

