

HORN HAPPENINGS

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF HORN FIELD CAMPUS



The Lone Wolf Tree

"It is not the language of painters but the language of nature which one should listen to..."

Vincent van Gogh



Western Illinois
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Volunteers

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Department of
Recreation, Park and
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A NOTE FROM MINDY

As you receive this newsletter, the dust will have settled on another challenge-course packed, corn-maze loving fall season at Horn Field Campus. Last year (2011) HFC hosted 190 groups, with 55 of those groups coming to Horn in October. Yes, October is the busiest month of the year. I'm sure many of you remember the zest the fall season brings to the outdoor enthusiasts - whether it's huddling over the campfire or gearing up for the haunted maze. Horn is alive and hopping with activity as usual. And with all of the good times come growth and development for individuals and groups alike. We hosted several new groups in Fall 2012 on our challenge course and more than 1200 people visited the corn maze.

With recruitment and retention as top priorities of the University, it is important to note that HFC introduces hundreds of regional high school students to challenge course activities, a unique aspect of WIU. It is evident that HFC plays a solid role in retention as those students who have committed of their time and talents at Horn graduate! YOU are an example of this. Students at Horn gain an impressive skill set. They (1) know what it takes to keep a facility operating, (2) recognize and practice risk management, (3) demonstrate leadership skills, (4) learn and practice natural resource management, GIS mapping and interpretive skills, (5) manage volunteers, recruit and train staff, (6) implement programs, and (7) learn and practice strategic planning, grant writing, fundraising, research and evaluation techniques, marketing, and public relations skills.

The 50-year anniversary of Horn Lodge joining the university is in 2015. Let's all brainstorm ways to celebrate this special occasion to honor and share all the positive outcomes that students wouldn't have experienced without this

facility. Personally, my life's direction was profoundly and positively altered by my first HFC teams course in the '80s. If you have a similar story to share about Horn Field Campus' impact on your life, please email me at HF-campus@wiu.edu.

There are also a multitude of projects on going at Horn as we continue our constant push for excellence in the outdoor experiential education, leadership, and natural resource management areas. The Horn Field Campus Advisory Board is currently overseeing the strategic planning process which involves:

- Updating the facility master plan to include recent accomplishments and proposed new facilities/amenities
- Addressing the health of our woodland acreage via removal of invasive species, hazardous trees in our urban forest areas, and applying for forest re-design grants (under the direction of Rob Porter and other community partners)
- Developing a Friends of Horn membership program to provide financial, volunteer, and community support for the above-mentioned initiatives
- Creating new marketing strategies to attract new user groups
- Working to fill the need for free transportation to Horn from Macomb
- Researching the history of Horn Field Campus

With the creation of the Advisory Board three years ago, we have raised public awareness of the role that Horn Field Campus plays in the life of WIU student retention and in practical, experiential teaching opportunities. We have been and are willing to take the necessary steps to move this program forward. Please help me spread the word about the impact this facility and its programs have had and continue to have on both our campus and local communities. Thank you!

SPOTLIGHT

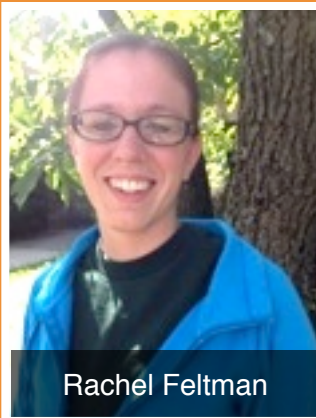
Horn Field Campus hosted the Macomb Youth Leadership Organization's fall kick-off event. Local high school sophomores participated in the high ropes course. MYLO is supported by WIU, the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Illinois McDonough County Extension.



“The sun is shining, the birds are singing...it’s a great day to be alive”

CHALLENGE COURSE MANAGER

FACILITIES MANAGER



Rachel Feltman

Growing up, every school year was spent looking forward to the summer because summer meant attending church camp. Naturally, after graduating from high school, I began working at the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji in Milford, Iowa. I continued working at that camp during the summers as I pursued a Music Education degree from Wartburg College. At Okoboji, I served as the adventure programming ‘guru’ while leading youth on rock

climbing trips, Boundary Waters canoe trips, and the challenge course.

After graduating from Wartburg in 2009, I served as the Adventure Programming and Research and Administration intern at Project Adventure, Inc. Following that tremendous learning experience, I was hired as the Challenge Course Assistant Manager at the Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. There I managed challenge course programming and staff, developed staff training materials and schedule, and designed and led programs for Space Camp and Corporate participants. While at Space Camp, I also received my Association of Challenge Course Technology Level II certification. My time at Space Camp was very rewarding and educational, but I still lacked formal education in the ‘outdoor industry.’

As a graduate student in the RPTA Department, I am excited to experience a designed curriculum around the field for which I am passionate. I look forward to serving as the Challenge Course Manager and working with and learning from the facilitator staff at Horn Field.



Dan Griffin

For the first six years of my life our backyard was a Forest Preserve park. I grew up taking daily hikes with my parents through the woods and have since developed a passion for the outdoors. Unintentionally, I have followed in

my father’s footsteps as he graduated from WIU with a degree in Parks and Recreation in 1971. I recently graduated from

Western with my Bachelor’s in Business Management, and I now look forward to pursuing my Master’s in RPTA. As a new graduate assistant at Horn Field Campus, I will be dedicated to keeping this place clean, safe and beautiful.



Fall Facilitator Team