

# -WALDEMAR- ROUND UP

WINTER 2023

*“Campers not only strive to achieve their personal goals, they also develop outstanding habits and acquire life - and activity - skills.”*

## Letter from the Director

Happy 2023! With the beginning of this new year, my mind jumps immediately to New Year's resolutions. To me, the purpose of a New Year's resolution is to stretch myself so I can improve or develop better habits. It is a personal goal I strive to achieve. Making a resolution is easy, and breaking it is equally simple. The challenge, and the reward, is following through with your resolution to completion and becoming a better person in the process.

A lot of my resolutions have to do with creating better habits. The key to creating a new habit is repetition. Many people say that it takes at least twenty-one days of repetition to develop a new habit.

Other keys to achieving goals are writing them down, sharing them with other people and surrounding yourself with people who encourage you and hold you accountable.

Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Waldemar is the perfect place to create new habits! Not only do our long term campers and staff stay at camp for more than twenty-one days, they are also surrounded by caring individuals who help to positively reinforce good habits and behaviors. Living in the beautiful, natural, unplugged community Waldemar provides also means we have fewer interruptions and distractions, which promotes more focus on reaching our goals.

Each term, campers not only strive to achieve their personal goals, they also develop outstanding habits and acquire life - and activity - skills. I love hearing about campers who go home and make their beds every morning without being asked or who are much more willing to try new foods or activities as a result of their experiences at camp.

Did you make a resolution this year that you've already broken? Don't worry! You have another opportunity at camp to accomplish your goals, learn new skills and stretch yourself. We all look forward to seeing you soon!

Happy New You!

*Janne*



## Knowledge is Key

People often wonder what we do all year long when camp is only in session during the three summer months. Besides running a robust event business, we also take the time to improve all areas of camp, including our facility, communication and hiring practices, staff training and my personal favorite: youth development.

Our team attends a variety of conferences to gain knowledge on the latest trends in youth leadership, what challenges our children face today and how summer camp helps them overcome these challenges.

We will attend the upcoming American Camping Association Conference where we plan to explore the following topics:

- \* **All Behavior is Communication – Are We Listening?**
- \* **What Campers Know and What Campers Need About Mental Health: Neuroscience and the Tools Needed**
- \* **Resiliency as a Core Value**
- \* **Applying Staffing Best Practices from Fortune 500 Companies to Camp**



We are committed to providing a culture of leadership development for our campers and staff, a healthy and inclusive environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging all while having a really fun time!

I can't wait for this summer!  
Waldy love,

*Meg*

### Marsha's Corner: Did You Know?

The Happy Haven building began as a wooden structure, which was replaced with the attractive stone building we see today. Every intricate detail, from the fixtures to each rock, had to be approved by Ferdinand Rehberger, Harvey P. Smith, Doris Johnson, or Doris' father, J.F. Johnson. It was in the summer of 1939 when the name changed to Happy Haven. What was its original name?

- A. Junior Building
- B. Rock Cabin
- C. Swiss Chalet
- D. The Doll House

Answer on page 10



## What Makes Camp Great

By: *Caroline Key*

### To a Camper

By: *Bebe Bloxson*

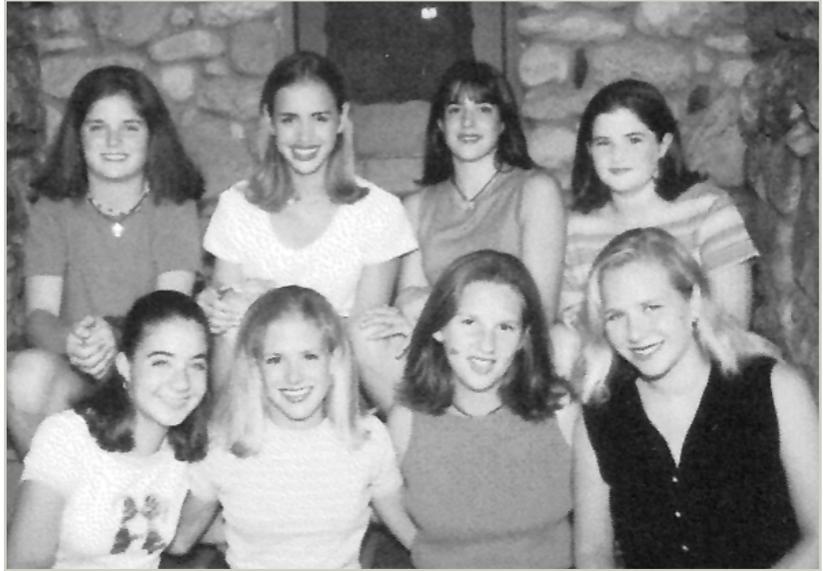
You may think my friend, when  
you grow quite old  
You have left camp days behind  
But I know the scent  
of wood smoke  
Will always call to mind  
Tribal Hill at twilight  
And trails you used to climb.

You may think some day you are  
all grown up  
And feel so worldly wise-  
But suddenly from out of the past  
A vision will arise  
Of happy girls with  
brown bare legs  
And laughter in their eyes.

You may live in a house,  
built to your taste  
In the nicest part of town  
But someday for your  
old camp togs  
You'd exchange your latest gown-  
And trade it for a river bank  
Where stars all night look down.

You may find yourself grown  
wealthy-  
And have all that gold can buy. . .  
But you'd toss aside a fortune  
For days 'neath an open sky  
With sunlight on the river  
And white clouds floating high.

For once you have been a  
Waldemar Girl  
Then something has come to stay  
Deep in your heart forever  
That nothing can take away  
For memories made at Waldemar-  
Will be a part of your life always!



As a camper, my typical kampong had Harlan and Katherine from Dallas, Mary John and Jane Lynch from Houston, Lizzie from Laredo, Helen from California and I was from Tyler. As a girl from someplace much smaller than Dallas or Houston, I loved to learn what was cool in the big cities. I loved that Lizzie spoke Spanish and Shakira landed on every camp mixtape. Helen was from California which, to my little East Texas eyes, was a different country. In addition to all of the valuable lessons that you naturally learn at camp, many of my favorite lessons were gleaned from my kampong mates. I learned to live with girls who brought many different experiences to our kampong family and culture. Yes, I could have clung to the other two girls from Tyler who were my age and requested to live with them, although my camp experience would have been very different if I had.

Waldemar has been intentional for many years about accepting girls from all over, filling camp with both big city and small-town girls. Although our overall waitlist is healthy, with big cities having even bigger numbers, we are committed to growing our lists with girls from smaller towns as well. We have enjoyed hosting camper parties in small (to us) towns and bringing Waldemar to all corners of Texas and beyond! By purposefully creating a geographically diverse culture for these young girls, we are presenting opportunities for them to make connections from all over the map. They may see that benefit early in life while traveling with family, at college, or even later. Every girl experiences something different; a city girl might be more in awe of the big bright stars whereas the country girl might simply be taking note of the big city trends that her kampong mate is telling her about. Waldemar makes this world a much smaller and more connected place.

# Welcome Susan Goodman

Dear Waldemar Family, I am utterly delighted to be joining the Waldemar Staff as the Assistant Director of Camper and Parent Relations. Returning to camp the past few summers as a counselor and sponsor reminded me how much I loved Waldemar as a camper and parent and inspired me to take on a full-time role at what has always been my “Happy Place.” Waldemar put me under its spell as a child, and I’m excited to bring my passion and exuberance to my new role, watching successive generations of campers and families create their own magical memories.

As a native Texan, I’m thrilled to be returning to the beautiful Texas Hill Country after a three-year sojourn in North Carolina with my husband Marvin. Waldemar has been part of my family history almost as long as it has existed, with my mother, Kay Bland (Oliver) attending in the 1940’s along with several



aunts. I followed my sister to camp, as an Aztec, in the 70’s and 80’s, along with some cousins, and so there was little doubt that our own daughters Abbey (Comanche) and Ellie (Tejas) would become Waldemar Girls. The light dancing on the Guad and the

breeze whispering through the trees helps me connect to my spiritual, physical, and emotional core, and I’m thrilled to be helping camper families unlock their own unique connections in this magical and inspiring place.

It feels as if my past experiences in education, family ministry, project and program management, customer service, and camp leadership have led inexorably to this new adventure. I’m extremely excited to use my skills to help design and foster memorable experiences and relationships with our camper families!

## Angels Coming and Going

### Coming

- \* Oliver Grayson born on October 19, 2021 to Dayden Shaffer.
- \* Dorothy Anne born on June 10, 2022 to parents Jane Anne (Blount) and Andrew Doerrfeld. Katie Garza is the proud aunt!
- \* Preston born on September 6, 2022 to parents Whitney (Ford) and Blake Pickett.
- \* Josephine Belle born in October 2022 to Catherine (Draths) and Sam Biel.
- \* Emerie Alexandra and Penelope Alice born on November 21, 2022 to Lauren (Truncala) and Jaye Weston.
- \* John Howard born on December 6, 2022 to parents Macon (Blount) and John McColm.
- \* Margaret Louise born on December 13, 2022 to parents Rachel (Holliday) and John David Montgomery. Margaret joins big sister Lucy.

### Going

- \* Raleigh White Johnson Jr. (October 14, 1926-December 19, 2022). The Johnsons are no strangers to Waldemar. They’ve had three Ideal Waldemar Girl recipients! Raleigh was known to be the patriarch of not only his family, but also of the Bintliff, Arnold, and Colvin families. He was laid to rest in his hometown of Houston, TX.

Please feel free to send “Angels Coming and Going” to [info@waldemar.com](mailto:info@waldemar.com) to be featured in our next issue of the Round Up.

### Leave a Mark at Waldemar: Pavers

Help us continue our project of completing our “Waldemar Walkway” that lines the athletic field. Pavers can be purchased for patrons, current and former campers, and counselors. You may pay for the paver online ([campwaldemarstore.com](http://campwaldemarstore.com)) and a form will be sent to you via email.

# Conversations from the Kitchen

By: *Sotear Kuy*

The Waldemar dining experience is truly a unique one. Our goal is to provide meals that are healthy, delicious, and meet the nutritional needs of active campers. In addition, we focus on expanding palates by creating menus that include a variety of cuisines, vegetables, and protein options. We always encourage campers to try everything on their plate. This is especially so on days where seafood is on the menu. Salmon is a great fish to try when new to eating seafood. It's full of lean protein, immune supporting B vitamins, and brain boosting omega-3 fats. Salmon also imparts a mild flavor, making it a versatile fish that can be used for any cuisine.

## Recipe: Honey Soy Glazed Salmon

This honey soy glazed salmon cooks up tender and flaky and was a camp favorite last summer. It comes together with just a few simple steps and uses only five ingredients. Serve it with a side salad and mashed potatoes or a hearty whole grain like brown rice for a complete and nourishing meal.

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

4 salmon fillets (5-8 ounces each)

Cajun seasoning to taste

1 tablespoon honey

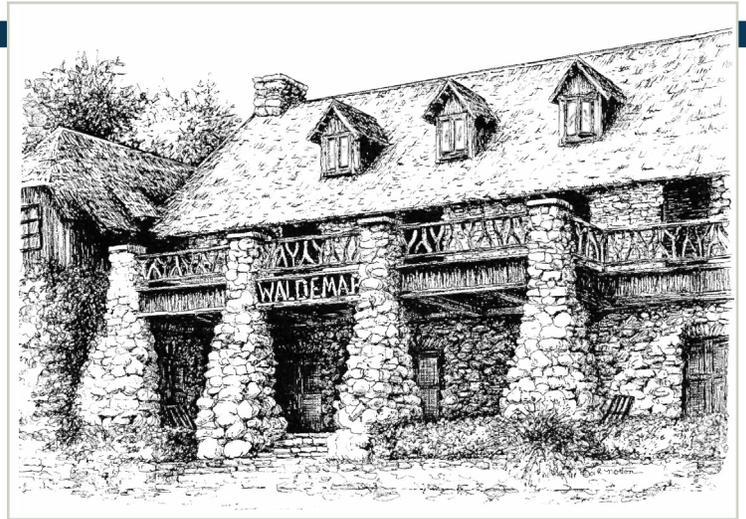
1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 lemon, sliced into ¼ inch rounds

Directions:

1. Place oven rack on the uppermost rack and preheat oven on broil.
2. With paper towels, pat salmon fillets dry. This will help with even browning. Lay fillets on a sheet pan.
3. Season each side liberally with Cajun seasoning. Drizzle honey and soy sauce on both sides and gently rub marinade into salmon.
4. Top each fillet with a slice of lemon.
5. Broil for 2-3 minutes on each side.

Bon Appetit!



*“Our goal is to provide meals that are healthy, delicious, and meet the nutritional needs of active campers.”*

# From the Horse's Mouth

By: Liz Pohl

It seems as though 2022 sped by at a breathtaking pace. I can hardly believe it's 2023. The horses have enjoyed the mild wet weather that we have had so far. They spend every night luxuriously wallowing in the mud to be rewarded by lots of brushing.

The other day a friend, Ferol (Hinkle) Richardson (camper '72-76, counselor '80-81, '04), sent me a picture of her niece, Frances Hinkle (Tejas '99-06), standing on the back of Luther twirling her trick rope...what a flood of memories it brought back. I'm sure many of you former campers remember monkey drill and showing off your trick roping skills on horseback. As hard as we strive to keep our camp traditions, finding good solid camp minded horses like Luther has become a tremendous challenge. We don't have the opportunity of finding the solid ranch horses from the US or Mexico that were available to us prior to the 1990's. With that said, we have an extremely old horse herd with about 25% of our herd over 25 years of age. Many of the new horses we find need to be ridden by counselors for a few seasons before transitioning to the afternoon classes to be ridden by senior campers. Eventually, the hope is that they will make good solid mounts for our younger riders. As our junior and intermediate rider numbers are increasing, we will have to get creative this summer to give all campers wanting to ride the opportunity.



**Snort**, with the support of his best friends, **Creek** and **Aaron**, has recovered from his injury last summer and hopefully will be ready to work when camp rolls around. My horse, **Birdie**, sadly broke a leg in November and had to be put to sleep. Her potential replacement, 4 year old **Riada**, has really big shoes to fill, but seems to be up for the challenge. Catherine and I were able to move some of the horses, including **Khori**, **River**, **Holiday**, **Bowman**, **Diamond** and **Everest**, to a 5000 acre winter pasture this year. The grass is so tall out there, I hope they let us find them all before camp.

## Horse Bio: Leroy

*18-20 year old mustang cross gelding*

**Leroy was donated by Olivia Quinn (1st term Tejas '16-23) and her family in 2018. Trey Quinn, Olivia's dad, sent me a backstory on him. It was so interesting I asked him if I could share it in his own words.**

In 2010, a friend of mine was at a rodeo in Window Rock, AZ when a young boy came up to ask him if he would be interested in buying a little horse. My friend said, "Sure, where is he?" The boy said, "I will have him here in the morning." Turns out the boy lived on an Indian reservation about three hours away. When my friend woke up the next morning at 6:00 to go feed, the boy was loping the horse around bareback with a

halter in front of my friend's horse trailer. He got him bought and brought him back to Texas. He knew we were looking for a horse for our son so when we saw each other at the rodeo in Pendleton, Oregon he told me about him. When we all got back to Texas we went down to Llano to see him. As soon as we saw him, both Amy and I knew he was coming home with us....and he did.

Leroy was at our place for I guess 8 years...we did everything on him. Hudson tracked steers, some he was not planning on tracking, but Leroy was....we gathered cattle, pulled wagons, Olivia tried her hand at trick riding moves and yes, we rode him in the house on more than one occasion.

*“As soon as we saw [Leroy], both Amy and I knew he was coming home with us. . .and he did.”*

When the kids outgrew him, at least that is what we called it....Hudson was on to playing basketball and Olivia was riding different horses learning about reining....Leroy stayed in the pasture just hanging out. Every now and then Olivia would catch him and we would look up and she was practicing trick riding moves on him, usually bareback with no halter.

I mentioned that we should let some other little boy or girl have him and enjoy riding him. That was met with a big ‘NOT ON YOUR LIFE!’, except it was a little more direct than that.

A few months went by and I think we were coming back from a Steven Hart horsemanship clinic at Waldemar and I mentioned that we should let Waldemar have him, of course, not sell him I was told, but let him live at Waldemar and have the best life ever giving rides and hanging out in the hill country for a while. Everyone agreed that would be the best thing ever. Olivia would get to see him several times a year and he would be at the best home he could ever imagine.

I'm guessing he is 17 or 18 or so....

Worked out for everyone I think....We think he is a mustang cross, but I honestly don't have any idea. I know he is tough as a boot and has the biggest heart of any little horse I have ever owned. He has always taken care of whoever is on him....a true blessing of a horse for any young rider for sure.

**Leroy has been one in a million here at camp jumping into classes day 1. He has in his 5 short years at camp taught junior through senior aged campers, learned and successfully played polocrosse and has participated as a Quadrille mount. He is about as dependable as they come. We love him!!!**



## Benefits of Four Week Camp

Have you ever been asked “How can you send your daughter away to summer camp for four weeks?” We know that in today’s busy world, with the shrinking summer break, prioritizing the Waldemar experience can be challenging to schedule.

If you attended Waldemar yourself as a child, you know first hand the value of our traditional Long Term sessions. Summers at Waldemar can be a transformative experience for girls. Here at Waldemar we strongly believe that the girls who attend one of our Long Terms get the most out of the experience.



- 1. Fully immerse oneself in the camp experience*
- 2. Learning life skills*
- 3. Unplugged from technology*
- 4. Completing goals and challenges*

One of the primary benefits of attending a Long Term is the opportunity to fully immerse oneself in the camp experience. Campers have more time to participate in a wide range of activities and programs, try new things, and build strong relationships with their peers and staff. They have the chance to truly settle in and feel comfortable at camp, which can lead to a more rewarding and enjoyable experience.

In addition to providing a wide range of activities and programs, Long Term also gives campers the opportunity to develop important life skills. These skills, such as independence, self-reliance, and decision-making, can be strengthened through the challenges and opportunities that camp provides. The longer campers are at camp, the more chances they have to practice and hone these skills, which can have a lasting impact on their personal and social development.

Another benefit of attending a longer summer camp session is the opportunity to disconnect from technology and grow in social skills. At camp, campers put away their phones and other electronic devices, and instead focus on face-to-face interactions with their peers and staff. This can help campers build strong, meaningful relationships and improve their communication and social skills.

Finally, attending a four-week summer camp session can provide campers with a sense of accomplishment and pride. They will have the opportunity to complete goals and challenges that they might not have thought possible, and they will feel accomplished when looking back on their time at camp.

Overall, the benefits of attending a summer camp for four weeks are numerous and long-lasting. At Waldemar, we are confident that girls who attend our camp for four weeks will have memorable and impactful experiences that will stay with them for years to come.

### **Inspire Your Company at Waldemar**

Waldemar provides an exclusive, beautiful and peaceful setting along the Guadalupe River that inspires teams to reach new heights. From September to early May, we host a range of exclusive services, including retreats, meetings, and workshops. Our facilities can comfortably accommodate groups ranging in size from 100 to 275 people. Guests enjoy being able to disconnect from their hectic schedules, traffic and the many demands of life and work while reconnecting with their peers. Contact Lori Appleton at [lori@waldemar.com](mailto:lori@waldemar.com) or give her a call at (830) 238-6005 for a tour and more information about event possibilities.

## Staff Update

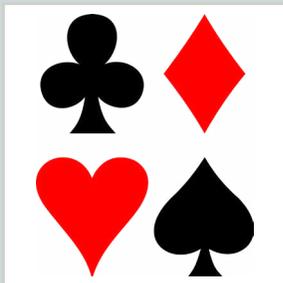
By: *Frannie Leonard*

We are hiring so many fantastic staff for summer 2023! We have amazing returners and new staff hired for this summer. To name a few of our rock star returners... Megan Skaggs will be heading our rifle department during First Term this summer. Ramsey Ruffeno and Annie McConn, who are amazing Second Term Comanche Sponsors will be back at camp for the entire summer! We have some great news at the barn, Pip Harland and Vivian Vickers will be at camp for all 3 terms! We have the kindest and sweetest Camp Mom for First Term, Tyra Free. This summer we have quite a few fantastic counselors from the Hilltopper class of 2020! Coming back to camp as a counselor gives you the opportunity to reconnect with your camp friends and meet new friends.

We will be recruiting on many college campuses this spring! We plan to head to The University of Texas, Texas Tech, TCU, Baylor, and Texas A&M. While on these campuses, we do a wide variety of recruiting including: tablings, career fairs, and visiting clubs and sororities! We would love to visit your club or sorority so please email [frannie@waldemar.com](mailto:frannie@waldemar.com) to get more information. Summer 2023 is going to be our best summer yet, thanks to our amazing staff!



### What's New for 2023



Drumroll please! We heard you and we've decided to bring back a class favorite, **bridge!** This class will also dive into mahjong and gin rummy, among others. Learn the tried and true favorites of many generations that you can bring to your next social gathering with friends and family! We'll also continue to offer pickle ball. Frannie is hard at work finding the perfect counselors to make this class a top choice during registration. Who's excited?

## Hammers and Nails

By: *Noel Quinones*

Fall 2022 was a busy season for the maintenance and landscaping teams. Along with keeping the grounds looking in tip-top shape for the events season, we also tackled a few beautification projects around camp.

A few of the kampongs received some much needed updates. The tile on the steps leading up to Bella Vista 3 was replaced by locally sourced stone. Beloved kampong Happy Haven had its foundation reinforced. Chad has been busy removing the bathroom tile in Happy Haven 1. We are excited for our youngest campers to see the new tile this summer! In the Ranch Houses, Marsha will be retouching the iconic western murals. The new flower beds by French Chateau were extended to the east side of the office with the masonry done in record time by Gerardo Alvarado.

Other camp buildings also received some improvements this fall. Imagine the amount of blenders, mixers, and more needed to crank out 3 meals a day for our campers and staff. Now, with the kitchen's newly replaced breaker box, Sotear and her staff will be able to handle the use of multiple appliances during their busiest season. The Depot also received some new equipment - an AC/heat unit. No more sweltering days sorting mail and pricing store inventory; Joyce Jordan and Maribel will be delighted! When not in use during the event season, the Depot will serve as a break room for our staff. The craft house and Cedar Lodge will look good as new with a fresh coat of paint. Here's to continuing to keep Waldemar beautiful in 2023!

# CAMPanion

We are excited to enter our second summer using the CAMPanion App to help keep you informed, connected and give you tools to help prepare for your daughter's time at Waldemar.

With the app, you'll be able to view photos from camp activities, read updates about what's happening at camp, and complete important forms (including the ability to scan in forms using your phone's camera) all in one convenient place. Plus, the app includes a feature that allows you to quickly and easily find photos of your camper using facial recognition technology. No more searching through hundreds of photos to find just the ones you're looking for - CAMPanion does it all for you. Best of all, there is no charge to use this service at Waldemar.

If you haven't already, simply search for CAMPanion in the app store on your phone and download the app. Your login is the same one you use for CampInTouch.



## Summer 2023 Dates

### Summer Sessions

Short Term

May 27th - June 1st

First Term

June 2nd - June 30th

Second Term

July 2nd - July 30th

### Staff Orientation Dates

May 24th - May 27th

### Hilltopper Parent Dates

First Term

**Tuesday, June 27th** beginning at 8 PM for Sr. Drama through **Friday, June 30th** ending with Final Program

Second Term

**Thursday, July 27th** beginning at 8 PM for Sr. Drama through **Sunday, July 30th** ending with Final Program

### **Book Lodging Soon**

Please visit the Kerrville Chamber of Commerce website for lodging in the hill country area: [www.kerrvilletx.com](http://www.kerrvilletx.com). We recommend you book your accommodations for the closing weekends as soon as possible, they fill up fast. Check VRBO, AirBNB, and Vacasa for rentals near Hunt, Ingram, and Kerrville.

*“ Miss Johnson saw the girls of '26 as the first of many who through the generations should come to this beautiful spot which should grow with the years into a place of usefulness and of service- making finer, better, and truer girls with strong bodies and clean hearts: 'the women of tomorrow, guardians of the world's ideals'. ”*

### Camp Waldemar

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Answer: D