

Chanco Chatter

News from Chanco on the James



The Camp and Retreat Center for the
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

November, 2009

Dear Sarah Scott,

Chanco on the James is busy all year long! Youth groups, church groups and families love to come to Chanco to use the zip lines, hold retreats and events, or just enjoy the opportunity to be in God's nature. Episcopal diocesan groups keep the cost of using the facilities to a minimum through our diocesan discount. Special rates for youth also apply to any youth group who stays at Chanco. Wonderful food, beautiful surroundings, meeting space and unique activities make Chanco perfect for any retreat. The schedule for 2010 is filling up fast. Contact Stacey at hospitality@chanco.org to schedule your next retreat or reunion.



Camp dates set for 2010 - mark your calendar today!

Open House Spring Thaw Sunday,
April 18 (free), 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Open House and Spring Fling
Saturday, May 1 (free to attend/ \$3
Lunch), 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, please join us for lunch and more!

First Camp Session: June 27-July 2
Ages: 8-10, Arrival time 1:00-3:00pm

Sail-Camp: June 27-July 2
Ages: 12-15

Second Camp Session: July 4-July 16
NEW Ages: 8-16, Arrival time 1:00-3:00 pm

Land Adventure: July 4 -July 16
Ages: 13-16

Third Camp Session: July 18-July 30
Ages: 11-15, Arrival time 1:00-3:00 pm

Sea Adventure: July 18-July 30
Ages: 14-17

Fourth Camp Session: Aug. 1-Aug. 13
NEW Ages: 8-16, Arrival time 1:00-3:00 pm

Air Adventure: Aug. 1st-Aug.13
Ages: 15-18



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Message



Chanco Wish List - 2009

Are you interested in helping Chanco with something specific from our wish list? We are in need of small items (such as new alarm clocks) as well as some larger items (such as a large screen TV for Watson Lodge).

Contact Sarah Scott Thomas, at ssstomas1@verizon.net or 804-539-4162 for more information. All donations are welcome. Thank you for your support!

[Click here to see our](#)

Junior/Senior High: August 15-August 20

Ages: 13-18

You can register for camp online after February 1, 2010 at www.campchanco.org or contact Jim Sitzler, Camp Director at director@chanco.org today for a camper application.

Gardeners - It's Your Chance to Bloom!

Chanco on the James announces a new program, a new opportunity to support this ministry in a meaningful way.

Chanco Conference Center is looking for church groups or individuals to Adopt-a-Spot and create a beautiful garden of your own design. Looking for a Lenten project or an outreach overnight, maybe a small group bonding experience? Suggested spots available include:

Front gatehouse gardens: Create a warm welcoming first impression for guests as they turn off the long, winding country road and into the open arms of Chanco on the James. These gardens are backed by white fences and a tall architectural gatehouse on each side. A shade and sun mix, mums have done well here, and ferns too. Last summer marigolds did well on one side. A few azaleas have survived the plentiful deer. What flora says "Chanco" to you? Indian corn? Native grasses? The colors of sunshine?

The drive to Watson Lodge is cleared for takeoff. Imagine a bank of azaleas along the way; an eye-catching tall shrub drawing you toward the house; cheerful borders along the circle drive. Watson Lodge is a clean slate for gardeners who like to start from scratch. The Lodge is used and loved by groups year round. All she needs is a welcoming face!

The Peace Garden in front of the Office is where you find the Peace Post, with "peace" written in many languages. It also shelters the brass plaque telling the colonial story of Chanco, the Native American boy who risked his life to warn his white friends of a planned massacre. In summer, this is a cool shady spot that could use some well-placed garden seats and small flowers. It is situated well to be a meeting spot or a place to sit and rest, enjoying the peace of the trees and the shelter of the surrounding buildings.

The three Dining Hall entrances are high-traffic and high visibility. They are almost screaming for attention! Two entrances get plenty of sun; the ramp entrance on the north side is used especially during the rain, and is in a wooded area. This building is a hub of activity and deserves a big helping of attention and care. Gardening will pay off in the smiles and appreciation of the hundreds of people who come to Chanco each year. This is also a prime gathering spot for Chanco campers all summer long.

The waterfront area is a woodland wetland beach mix, and is visible to beachgoers, boaters, and all who use the amphitheatre. A huge old tree is an undeveloped focal point. Challenges include a gravel access road and a tall water spigot amidst grasses, as well as river debris along the treeline. Any or all of these areas can be adopted by a group. These areas are used not only during daylight but also at sunset and beyond.

Another spot of your choice...pool? bluff? infirmary? Be creative! Be

[wish list.](#)

Quick Links

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Board of Directors

Chanco's Board of Directors are a dedicated group of volunteers who work together to make Chanco a place to rest, rejuvenate and reconnect with God and nature. Board members represent all the convocations of the diocese.

The Rt. Rev. "Holly" Hollerith,
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Our staff

Conference Director
Stacey Richards
hospitality@chanco.org

Camp Director
Jim Sitzler
Director@chanco.org

Development & Marketing
Talley Sale Banazek
talley@banazek.com

President, Chanco on the James, Sarah Scott Thomas
ssstomas1@verizon.net

Treasurer, Chanco on the James, Art Spooner
a.spooner@att.net

inspiring! Be blessed!

A group of any size can adopt a spot for a minimum of one year. Call or email Jen Kimball 804-335-6592 or jensven1@gmail.com with questions and to get started! Free overnight stay at Chanco while you work!

Chanco on the James is an outdoor ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia.



Camp counselors now being recruited!

The highly sought-after camp counselor employment opportunities for the summer of 2010 have been posted to our website. Only the best need apply....

www.campchanco.org



The Second Annual 40th Anniversary of Camp Chanco

by Helen Somers

Former campers and counselors gathered at Chanco for another

successful CCAA (Camp Chanco Alumni Association) reunion weekend on September 10-12. Perhaps people came in search of familiar faces, to revisit memories from years gone by, or both. Whatever brought them back to the shores of the James River, a wonderful time was had by all.

Local acoustic musician David Carter performed on the bluff on Friday evening, and the enthusiastic group enjoyed a pajama breakfast, a crazy hat lunch, a poolside luau dinner, and an Indian night riddled with some of the same obstacles we all remembered from our summers at camp (darn fire)! Rev. Dave Davenport brought a magnificent slideshow that spanned from 1978 to 1984 (you can go to www.chancoonce.com to see peruse his photos now), and it was inspiring to hear the cries of joy as people recognized friends from long ago as they popped up on the screen. Saturday brought some of the same activities that have been enjoyed at Chanco for decades: The waterfront was open for sailing, swimming, canoeing, and good, old-fashioned beach appreciation. It was hard to get folks away from the ropes course, although it is hard to say whether it was the thrill of the zip line itself or Camp Director Jim Sitzler's magnetic personality that kept people coming back for more!! I imagine it was a little bit of both... We even had an honest, surprise proposal during the chants at Crazy Hat Lunch!!! She said yes, by the way... Best wishes to Mitch Parker and Amber Barb!

The weekend ended with Morning Prayer celebrated on the bluff. Margeurite Alley led a powerful service on a pristine fall morning, as eagles sailed over the majestic James River. Margeurite took us back to our roots at Chanco, poignantly reminding us why we were at camp. Perhaps

most significantly, she challenged us to find someone with a similar connection to bring back with us next year... It is not too early to start thinking about who you will bring.

Everybody, mark your calendar now for the CCAA Reunion of 2010. It is already scheduled for September 24-26, 2010. If you couldn't be there to celebrate this year, please know that we missed you and we look forward to seeing you next year. If you were there this year, we can hardly wait to see you again!

How to reach us

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Contact Information

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