Wetlands & Woodlands Summer Camp Staff 2016

Rachel DeHaan- Student Camp Leader (Session 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5B)
Rachel will be a Junior this fall at Calvin studying
Elementary Education. She grew up here in Grand Rapids
and loved to play in her neighborhood woods. It wasn’t
until high school that Rachel discovered a passion for
being active in the outdoors. She is actively involved with
Calvin’s Outdoor Recreation department where she gets
to share her love of backpacking, rock climbing and
creation care with her friends. She has been working for
the Ecosystem Preserve for a year and has enjoyed
learning more about the natural world that she loves to
play in. This is her first year as a camp leader and she is
excited to share her excitement and delight for the
wonders, small and large, that God has created for us to
enjoy right here at the preserve.

Fun Facts about Miss Rachel:
- If she could fly she would be an Osprey because they love to live by water and eat salmon.
- Her favorite Michigan animal is black bear. She has never seen one in Michigan, but hope to see
  one someday.
- Rachel loves to go backpacking. She enjoys the solitude of being several days away from
civilization and not worrying about what to wear. She also enjoys pushing herself physically and
mentally and exploring God’s creation far away from the big crowds.

Jeanette Henderson- Camp Director (All sessions)
Jeanette’s official title is Program Manager of the
Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve (CCEP). Her
responsibilities include overseeing all aspects of
CCEP’s education and outreach programs including
but not limited to developing curriculum and
programs, training Calvin students in environmental
education/interpretation techniques, and teaching
programs for Pre-K through adult. She holds a B.S.
degree in Biology from Calvin College and
certifications in Project Learning Tree, Project
WILD, Aquatic WILD, Growing Up WILD, Flying WILD
and Leopold Education Project. She has worked at
the state level for Michigan Audubon directing and
coordinating programs. Additional experience
includes designing and teaching school and family programs as a marine educator for the
University of Georgia’s Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Savannah, Georgia and as a
naturalist for several state parks in Michigan through the Michigan Department of Natural
Resources. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, cooking, knitting, and traveling.

Fun Facts about Miss Jeanette:
- Her least favorite animal are snakes! It has a good portion of her life to not scream when she
  sees one. Even naturalists have fears! However, she is fascinated by most every other creepy
Millipedes, grasshoppers, slugs, worms, spiders and katydids are just a few creatures that fascinate her.

- Her childhood dream was to be a marine biologist studying marine invertebrates such as crabs and sea stars, fish and sea otters.
- Abbie Kat, her calico cat plays fetch and rolls on her back to be petted just like a dog.

**Emily Harrell Newhouse- Staff Camp Leader (Session 5B)**

Emily graduate Calvin this spring with a degree in Elementary Education with concentrations in Spanish and Fine Arts. In the fall, she will begin teaching 3rd grade at Borculo Christian in Holland, MI. Growing up in Caledonia, Emily spent much of her childhood playing in the woods, kayaking on the Thornapple River, and biking with her family. She has had a variety of volunteer and job experiences which include working with the kid’s program at Mel Trotter Ministries, counseling at a church arts camp, volunteering as an ESL tutor, working as a nanny for a variety of families, and working at the Ecosystem Preserve. This is Emily’s 2nd summer as a camp leader (2014 & 2016). In her free time, Emily enjoys spending time in nature, hiking, riding her bike, creating art, and singing.

**Fun Facts about Miss Emily:**

- Miss Emily just got married to another former Preserve staff member, Erik Newhouse.
- If she could be any aquatic Michigan animal, she would be the rainbow darter because their colors are so unique (although in her opinion the males are much prettier than the females.)
- She and her older sister loved to play in the ravine in the woods by their house as a child. They would often come home caked in mud and with stories of animal sightings. One of her most memorable experiences was watching a mom raccoon and her babies inside of a hollow tree.

**Jared Swanson- Student Camp Leader (Session 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 6, & 7)**

Jared is a junior at Calvin College studying Elementary Education with a focus in integrated science. He grew up in Chicago, Honduras, and South Korea. His parents are missionaries thus he moved around a lot and has traveled to almost 20 different countries. One of Jared’s most favorite travel adventures was to Australia where he saw wild kangaroos and got to snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef. His goal is to someday travel to every continent. When he is not studying or working, Jared enjoys hiking, swimming, riding his bike, playing basketball, and trying new foods. He recently began working at CCEP as a Program Leader during the school year and is very excited to be a summer camp leader this year.
Fun Facts about Mr. Jared:

- Jared’s favorite Michigan animal is the white-tailed deer because they are fast and agile. It is very hard to spot one because they will always hear you before you see them.
- As a child, Jarred climbed to the top of Mt. Fuji in Japan. It was a long and tiring hike but it was very worth it when he made it to the top.
- If Jared could be a creepy crawly, he would want to be a slug because you can tell where they have been with their path of slime. They are also a very important part of the ecosystem.

Kara VanderPol – Staff Camp Leader (Session 3 & 5B)

Kara graduated from Calvin with a B.A. in elementary education with minors in group sciences and fine arts in 2006. She also earned her Master’s degree in elementary science from Michigan State University. She taught 1st, 2nd, and 4th grade for six years in Maine and at Excel Charter Academy in Grand Rapids, MI. Kara now enjoys caring for her 2-year old daughter Olive, Elsa the dog, and helping her husband with his new business. In her free time, Kara enjoys reading, baking, and going hiking with her family. This is her 3rd summer as a W & W camp leader!

Fun Facts about Miss Kara:

- If she could be an insect she would be a walking stick so she could have great camouflage to hide from predators.
- As a child, Kara loved searching for Petoskey stones with her dad on the shores of northern Michigan. It was so exciting when we finally found one!
- Kara just moved back to Michigan from Colorado. She and her husband love skiing and going for hikes in the mountains!

Julie Wilbourn – Department Assistant

Julie grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has a B.S. degree in Marketing from Miami University. Her work experience includes project management and analysis of market research studies, as well as market analysis and product management of various manufactured products. Most recently, she spends time volunteering at her children’s schools, coordinating enrichment presentations, book fairs, and hot lunch programs. Julie joined our staff in August 2012 and in regards to camp assists Jeanette with camp registration and marketing. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and outdoor activities like biking and swimming.

Fun Facts about Miss Julie:

- Her favorite spot in the preserve is on North Pond deck in the fall, because when the wind blows the leaves off the trees and sends them swirling over the water, you feel like you’re in a giant snow globe.
- If she could be a tree, she would be a dogwood.
- She doesn’t have any pets – at the moment, she thinks her family is enough to take care of! But, she has had ladybug, ant & butterfly habitats at home.
Annelise VanDyken - Student Camp Leader (Session 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 6, & 7)

Annelise is a senior at Calvin College studying Elementary Education with a focus in integrated science and math. She has worked as a program leader here at the Preserve since Fall 2015. Additional work experience includes working as a camp counselor at Grace Adventures Camp, lots of babysitting and picking all sorts fruits and veggies on her family farm. In her spare time, she enjoys playing the piano, swimming, boating, fishing and hiking. She has wanted to be a summer camp leader here since her freshman year. She is excited to be learning more about natural and life sciences, building her confidence with teaching and instruction, and sharing the wonders of nature with this year’s campers.

Fun Facts about Miss Annelise:

- Miss Annelise has two finches, one hamster, and several fish. If she could fly, she would be a cardinal because she still would get to enjoy the snow in the wintertime and have a very strong beak to crack open seeds.
- Some of her favorite childhood memories include going on walks and picnics with my family and friends at Blandford Nature Center. She loved walking along the dock over the marsh area and counting all the frogs.