



November 14, 2008

Greetings Three Milers,

I am sitting at my keyboard on a rainy afternoon in Strafford, Vermont, thinking back to a glorious summer at Three Mile. We have concluded another successful season, culminating in the Closing Weekend, where the TMI Committee met in the Card Room all day Saturday and Sunday morning, while volunteers worked outside, putting the camp "to bed" for the winter.

Will Holmes' first summer as camp manager was a huge success, with both campers and croo giving him very high marks for his organizational, management and hosting skills. Camp ran very smoothly, and Will handled the inevitable bumps along the way with a steady and capable hand. I believe I speak for the entire Three Mile community when I say I am thrilled that Will is returning next summer, along with our steadfast and wonderful Assistant Manager, Joy Bloomfield.

Another success story this season was the Tower renovation, which transformed an original TMI landmark that had "fallen into neglect," as they say, into two comfortable and attractive housing units for summer staff members. As happy as the Committee was about finally bringing this project to fruition, I think Paul Robertson, our Maintenance Manager, was happiest of all, since his accommodations went from a tent in the woods (which he lived in for *three* summers!) to a light and airy room on the Tower's second floor with a view of the Lake.

While there are many other events and accomplishments from the 2008 season that I could report to you here, I would like to use the rest of this letter to celebrate the volunteers of Three Mile Island Camp, whose contributions make the continued existence of Three Mile possible and whose spirit of giving and devotion to a special place establishes the values that shape our community. As most of you know, I have been associated with Three Mile in a variety of capacities over the course of more than 32 years – as summer manager, committee member, camper, and croo parent – but it wasn't until I became the Chair of the Three Mile Island Committee that I truly came to appreciate the astonishing level of volunteer commitment that underlies the ongoing success of our Camp.

Just think of it this way – Three Mile is a business, with a large piece of property and buildings to maintain, employees to manage, books to keep, inventories to control, strategic planning to execute, and an excellent reputation to protect. A great deal of this work is accomplished by our three seasonal managers, of course, but all the rest of the management-level work of the TMI enterprise is done by volunteers. And our volunteers are amazing!

They say that "Many hands make light work," and Three Mile's volunteers embody that concept. Here's what I'm talking about:

- ★ On Opening Weekend in June, 57 volunteers journeyed to the Island to haul boats out of the Rec Hall, open up mothballed cabins, clean the kitchen from top to bottom, remove shutters, prepare systems, and get things set up for the summer. The names of these volunteers are posted on the TMI website (www.3mile.org).

★ On Closing Weekend in September, 33 volunteers (in addition to 20 committee and staff members) made the trek to the Island to haul boats into the Rec Hall, close up cabins, clean the kitchen from top to bottom, put on shutters, shut down systems, and secure the property for the winter. The names of these volunteers are also on the website.

★ The volunteers who serve on the TMI Committee, which consists of 14 members who serve 4-year terms on a rotating basis, amaze me with both the quality and the quantity of the work they do. The Maintenance Subcommittee cares for TMI's facilities as if they owned them themselves. The Outreach and Education Subcommittee is in the process of creating a sustainability plan and an education program that will enable Three Mile to become a model of environmentally responsible stewardship. The Management Subcommittee is constantly engaged in ensuring that TMI is run as well as the best-run organizations in the country: with healthy finances, happy and productive employees, and a safe and well-maintained facility. The names of all committee members can be found on the TMI website.

★ We also have many volunteers who have a huge impact on Three Mile through their contributions of professional expertise, which improve the quality of our operations and save us thousands of dollars every year. For example, Larry Parker oversees our computer operations, recommending systems, troubleshooting problems, purchasing software, and giving us incredibly valuable free advice on computer issues. Stroker Rogovin, who is single-handedly responsible for creating the world's best organized tool storage area in the TMI launchhouse, not only spends several days at the beginning of each summer season training the crew in basic maintenance skills and tool use, he also organizes a Volunteer Week every fall, leading a group of folks who are handy with a hammer in completing a number of maintenance projects that can't be accomplished when there are campers on the Island. Mary Ann Gallivan, who lives right on Meredith Neck Rd., has put in countless hours helping us with our bookkeeping and also serves as our "local representative" when we need anything from a business or governmental contact in town to a place where we can have packages delivered off-season. Jack Trickey (who received one of the AMC's top volunteer awards at the 2007 Annual Meeting for his untiring service to Three Mile) supervised the replacement last year of the underwater electric cable which brings power to the Island, and is now overseeing our plans to enlarge Oak Knoll to better accommodate Will's family. Benji Fisher is our webmaster; whenever we need changes or updates on the TMI website, we just email Benji and the changes happen in an instant! Benji also created and is maintaining the new photo gallery section of the website. Jay Maciejowski and Rick Tjader oversee the health of our trees. Marge Holland, who created TMI's original land use plan with Jay and Bill Clapham in 1973, has been monitoring the growth of TMI's vegetation on a regular basis ever since then.

Of course, the more names I include, the more I realize how many names I'm leaving out! This makes me very uneasy because there are so many volunteers who deserve to be mentioned but can't be in this newsletter because it would be 10 pages long! I do have a solution in mind, though. I would like to create a comprehensive list of

volunteers' names, and post it on the website this winter and on the camp bulletin board next summer. I will need help in compiling this list, so I am counting on all Three Milers to send me the names of everyone you know (including yourself, please) who has done volunteer work for TMI along with a brief description of the work they've done. You can email the information to me at: committeechair@3mile.org. Please contribute to this project so that we can create and maintain a complete record of all of our volunteer efforts.

I would also love to hear from you if you would like to do some volunteer work for Three Mile, whether you have an hour a week or an hour a year to devote. Please email me to say, "Sign me up!" or "What can I do?" or "I'd like to volunteer, but I have a couple of questions first..."

Before I sign off, I have a couple of announcements to share:

1) RESERVATION PROCESS CHANGE: For the past two years, our new reservation process has allowed people to submit reservation requests any time between early November and February 1. Please note the following change to this procedure:

For the 2009 season, please mail your application between January 1 and February 1. Sally will conduct the lottery on Feb. 1, so all applications she has received by that date will go into the lottery.

2) I promised Benji Fisher that I would remind everyone about the new photo gallery feature on the Three Mile website. The photo gallery is a place where everyone can share pictures from their week at TMI. If you would like to share pictures, go to the TMI website (www.3mile.org), click on the "Pictures" link, then click on the words "photo gallery" in the first sentence on the Pictures page. This will take you to the gallery, where you can log in to upload photos, using "**camper08**" as your username, and "**blueberry**" as your password.

I hope you all are having a wonderful year (meaning the 50 or 51 weeks between your visits to Three Mile) and that we will see you on the dock next summer.

Best wishes,

Nancy Grant
TMI Committee Chair