

Camp Maintenance Conference Presentations

1. **Keynote – Camp Maintenance Jeopardy!** – Gary Forster, Camp Consultant
All new questions, all new R&D (great ideas you can “Rip-off and Duplicate!”) Gary Forster is a former camp property manager, architectural designer, and camp executive. He’s worked with over 250 camps and continually collects clever solutions to our most common problems (and classic failures, too!) Lots of photos and resources (that you’ll be able to access when you return home).
2. **Keynote – Facility Emergencies: Prepare, Prevent, Recover** – Michael Gurtler, Senior Consultant and Partner, Safe-Wise
Severe weather, fires, gas leaks and other hazards can put your facilities (and your program) at risk. Recently many camps have incurred major damage from storms like Irene and Sandy. Find out what you can be doing right now to prepare for facility emergencies at your camp, prevent them when possible, and recover quickly and efficiently when emergencies do happen.
3. **Building and Maintaining Roads and Parking Lots** – Rick Stryker, Engineer, Camp Facilities Consultant
Getting from here to there at camp can be a challenge, but if your access is too “rustic”, are your campers safe? In this workshop we’ll talk about the different materials, methods and amendments you can use to get roads built and repaired, as well as how to determine whether the work is best done “in house” or not.
4. **Chainsaw Maintenance and Sharpening**– Tom Ogle, Master Mechanic at Ace Hardware
Learn how to perform some of the most common repairs and techniques to keep your saws running at their best.
5. **Propane at Your Camp** – Ken Charron, Service Coordinator, and Chuck Bennet, Lead Technician for Suburban Propane
A presentation by the pros on: propane tank installation, how to handle leaks, propane appliances, oil tank inspections and 28 ways to control your heating costs at camp.
6. **Cleaning and Disinfection** – Brian Allen, Program Manager, Leland Paper Company
Getting dirty is a big part of a camper’s time at camp, but parents also want to know that their children are in a safe, clean environment for eating, sleeping and restroom use. Find out more about appropriate cleaning and disinfection in the summer camp environment, including some new products and some tried and true methods.
7. **OSHA Basics** – Bob Francis, New York State Department of Labor
This training was created to be an overview or A to Z of OSHA safety regulations, common hazards, as well as corrective measures to prevent common accidents for maintenance and grounds keeping operations .
8. **The New YMCA Sailing Center for People with Disabilities** – George Painter, Executive Director, Camp Chingachgook
Tour the worksite for this innovative program space for sailors with disabilities. Located on Camp Chingachgook’s waterfront on Lake George, this large, two-story dock is due for completion by June 2013. Discuss the planning, fundraising and permitting that has come together to make this dream a reality.
9. **Ask an Engineer** – Rick Stryker, Engineer, Camp Facilities Consultant
If you have a problem with your facilities, and didn’t want to share it with the whole group, bring it to this highly interactive small group session where we’ll try to peel the problem apart and offer some ideas on how you might proceed. Maybe just listening to the other person’s problem will make yours seem smaller!
10. **This Old Camp: The Methods and Materials of Camp Buildings** – Gary Forster, Camp Consultant
What new camp property managers need to know about being great in our profession, and what ALL camp directors need to know to make good choices while being an empowering supervisor: regular camp facility maintenance, tricks of carpentry, wiring, plumbing and acoustics; working with architects, and getting the job done right by vendors and contractors. Similar to the TV show, it includes images and stories of the crazy messes we almost always face, and how they’ve been handled by pros.
11. **Open Shop Time** – Engine Maintenance Shop, Boat Repair Shop, Woodworking Shop
Bring your questions and make your plans. Open forums on engine diagnostics, woodworking, and boat repair. Take a look at a portable generator tune-up, log splitter, and tools and shop designs.
12. **Free Planning Advice: Refreshingly Honest, Thoroughly Researched** – Gary Forster, Camp Consultant
(Though some might say “brutal and opinionated”), here’s a chance to get free consulting on your own camp master site plan or facility designs. Bring what you’ve got (blueprints or the back of a napkin), and you will get a perspective that has saved thousands of dollars for others, avoided pitfalls, and made camps more FUNctional. Even if you don’t have a plan, you can learn (painlessly!) by watching and helping your peers.
13. **Fun Camp Co. – Teepees, Covered Wagons and More!** – Bill St. Pierre, Owner / Operator
Learn about all of the innovative and camper-friendly products sold by Fun Camp Co. Think about how much your campers will love sleeping in a covered wagon or a teepee this summer, and then find out how easy they are to set-up and maintain!

14. **Emergency Power: What Can Possibly Go Wrong?** – **Rick Stryker**, Engineer, Camp Facilities Consultant
No power at camp is an adventure to the campers, but to administrators and staff it can be a nightmare. Is the investment worthwhile? How much do you need and how does it all come together? Here are a few fairly straight forward steps that will help clear the way to making a smart, safe choice about backup power.
15. **Eight Hallmarks of Great Camps** – **Gary Forster**, Camp Consultant
The “average” camp isn’t full. Of their first-year campers, almost 2/3 don’t return for even a second year. (And you know what their bathrooms look like!) Comparing yourself to “average” isn’t very helpful. Instead, I compared camps with high camper return-rates. “Great” camps have continued to grow each of the past 12 years, and over 2/3 of their campers return each year. It’s time you put their secrets into practice. It’s not rocket science, and it’s NOT what most of us were taught. (Gary’s most popular session; presented to over 100 camp boards).
16. **Forestry Management** – **Rich McDermott**, New York Department of Conservation
The forest is an important part of most camps. What can you do to manage this important resource? This presentation will cover assessing and managing hazard trees, pruning trees, and forest access.
17. **Small Engine Trouble Shooting and Repair** – **Tom Ogle**, Master Mechanic at Ace Hardware
A back to basics approach to understanding the principles of operation of small engines with an emphasis on diagnosis and repair of the most common problems.
18. **Rodent and Pest Control** – **Ken Watkins**, Orkin Pest Control
Learn the basics of integrated pest management in controlling problem insects and rodents. The things you should do before using chemicals as a last resort.
19. **The Changing Paint Industry** – **Rich Marriner**, Regional Manager, Passono Paints
Environmental concerns and changing raw materials have caused a large upheaval in the paint industry over the past 10 years. Time tested products have disappeared; new products have come on the scene. This program will give you an overview of the current state of the paint industry and what is coming down the road.
20. **Pipes on Your Site: Storm, Sewer, Water** – **Rick Stryker**, Engineer, Camp Facilities Consultant
Using the right pipe for the job is as important as using the right tool, if you’re going to get the life, performance and function that you’re after. Learn something new and useful!
21. **Prioritizing Your Workload “How to Eat an Elephant”** – **Gary Forster**, Camp Consultant
If you ever tell yourself “someday I’ll get caught up,” you haven’t worked at camp very long! Here are some of the most important (yet oh-so-common) facility and program concerns, and really clever ways that they’ve been solved by others. Yes, there will be a lot of laughing at others (because we’ve done it ourselves!) But most important is a way to set priorities that match those of your customers while improving communication between departments and creating better solutions.
22. **The Effect of Ethanol on Small Engines** – **Tom Ogle**, Master Mechanic at Ace Hardware
This session will help you to understand the different fuels available and show the detrimental effects of ethanol on small engines, along with remedies for these problems.
23. **Site Mapping** – **Rick Stryker**, Engineer, Camp Facilities Consultant
You can’t possibly know where you’re going unless you know where you are; let alone where you’ve been. Many organization leaders don’t understand the everyday benefits of having your site properly mapped. By exploring all the ways that a good site map can work for you, you’ll see how to overcome anxiety over the cost and time to get this tool in your tool box.
24. **Diaphragm Type Carburetor Overhaul and Repair** – **Tom Ogle**, Master Mechanic at Ace Hardware
This session will demonstrate the steps necessary to repair the damage caused by dirt, water, or stale gas in the most common type of carburetor used on two-stroke equipment.
25. **The Ups and Downs of Safety** – **Michael Gurtler**, Senior Consultant and Partner, Safe-Wise
On the job safety including: preventing back injury, ladder safety, and preventing slips and falls.
26. **Preventative Maintenance Plans** – **Glen Chin**, Landscape Architect, Property Consultant, Girl Scouts USA
Prioritizing maintenance lists, developing budgets, and establishing a preventative maintenance plan.
27. **Wood Floor Care and Maintenance** – **William “Danner” McGuinness**, Adirondack Wood Floors
Wood floors are common in camp dining halls, conference spaces, cabins and activity centers. Learn the best ways to care for the wood floors at your camp, and questions you should be asking before installing new wood floors.
28. **100 Great Ideas – Every One Stolen!** – **Gary Forster**, Camp Consultant
Pictures of programs and clever camp solutions ready to be taken home and used! Looking to get your juices flowin’ for a creative summer? This one is fresh-squeezed!

29. **Small Engine Electrical Troubleshooting** – **Tom Ogle**, Master Mechanic at Ace Hardware
The starting system on a riding mower has at least 8 different components. The charging system is part of the engine but must interface with the mower by combining the wiring harnesses. Learn how to diagnose the two most common small engine electrical issues.
30. **Water Treatment Done Right** – **Tim Jansen**, Mechanical Engineer, Wel-Dun, Inc.
We will discuss water disinfection methods, advantages and troubleshooting tips.
31. **Wi-Fi Networking and Phone Services** – **Chris Wentworth**, Operations and Trip Coordinator, Wyonegonic Camps
Technology is great when it works! Learn how to add open and secure Wi-Fi to your camp property with easy-to-use equipment. Also learn how to increase your cordless phone's range and add to existing phone wire.
32. **Zero Sort Recycling** – **Springer Waste Management**
With a broad region of service and a new recycling facility in Vermont, Springer Waste Management has the experience and the answers for your recycling questions. Find out about changes in the recycling industry and how your camp can be ahead of the curve.
33. **Shop Talk w/ Tom** – **Tom Ogle**, Master Mechanic at Ace Hardware
Come with your questions about small engines and Tom will be ready with answers!

