

Guest educator  
architect James  
Hartford looks  
on as campers  
present habitats  
designed in  
harmony with nature



# MANITOGA SUMMER NATURE & DESIGN CAMP

is a little like other day camps and a little different too. We believe summertime for children should be fun, relaxed and carefree. Yet it's also a great time to soak up knowledge of things that today's schools don't always have time to teach, such as how to observe and care for the natural world and how to use nature to inspire creativity. Russel Wright felt passionately about these things as he designed the 75-acre woodland garden explored by our campers each summer.

Today we share Wright's *Know Nature* and *Feel Nature* precepts through five, one-week sessions that help children learn to live and design in harmony with nature, as Wright encouraged. Join us this summer for reptiles and birds, geology, ecology, botany and Shakespeare, as well as a full measure of art and design throughout the season.

2009

**JULY 6 TO  
AUGUST 7  
FIVE  
ONE WEEK  
SESSIONS**

What makes Manitoga unique? Now an idyllic Hudson Highlands retreat, National Historic Landmark, and the only 20th century modern home open to the public in New York State, Manitoga was once a ravaged industrial site, scarred by decades of logging and quarrying. In 1942, Russel Wright and his wife Mary purchased the land and he began to care for it with his expert designer's eye.

Nurturing native plants, opening the woods to create view corridors and diverting a stream so that it cascades magnificently into the old quarry pit were some of the first things Wright did. He then set about designing a place to live and work that combines the beauty of nature with the principles of good design. He called his home Manitoga after Algonquin words that mean "place of great spirit." How lucky we are to share the experience of this wonderful place with our community and especially with our children!

"...these stones, these trees, have a mood; they give me a feeling of awe and reverence which calms me and puts me in relation to it."

- Russel Wright



## CAMP PHILOSOPHY & ENVIRONMENT

For Russel Wright, Manitoga was a learning laboratory for investigating the harmonies between nature and design. For Manitoga campers, the environment becomes a classroom where they learn to make nature part of their daily experience.

Virtually all of our time is spent outdoors. Two large tents keep us safely sheltered in the event of rain. Nearby is Mary's Meadow, a large open area for games and sports. Beyond that, we are out and about in the 75-acre woodland garden, disrupting the serenity of the woods with the exuberant sounds of childhood.

## HOW THE SUMMER IS STRUCTURED

A typical day consists of an excursion into the woods with a learning adventure in mind. We learn by doing: observing wildlife, identifying plant species, and brainstorming orienteering skills are only a few of our forest activities. There's unstructured time, too, for simply relaxing and talking to a friend in the shade.

The season consists of five one-week sessions that run from Monday, July 6 through Friday, August 7. The camp is open to children 5 to 12 years of age, who are divided into groups according to age and grade level. Some activities involve the whole camp, while others are tailored to the abilities and interests of specific age groups. A tour of Russel Wright's Home and Studio gives older campers a peek at how a successful artist lived and worked and encourages them to see the world through his eyes.

Each day begins at 9:00 and ends at 2:45 for 5 and 6 year olds and 3:00 for those 7 and over. In the morning, each group rotates through the nature, art and recreational activities. Afternoons are usually spent on hikes and projects that involve all campers and often include visits from special guest educators who expand on the weekly themes.

## EDUCATION STAFF

**Camp Director Mark Wick** has a Master's degree in Environmental Education and has taught fourth grade for eight years. Growing up on a glacial lake in South Salem, NY, Mark developed a passion for the outdoors, particularly reptiles and amphibians. His own pet reptiles often accompany him to Manitoga for camp activities.

"I'm thrilled to return this summer for my third year at camp," Mark says. "Each summer there are more and more treasures to be found and discoveries to be made. I'm really looking forward to exploring and learning with the children at Manitoga in '09!"

Mark is joined by **Assistant Camp Director/Artist-in-Residence Linda Richards** who has a Master's degree in Elementary Education and extensive arts education experience. Also a talented musician, Linda developed and launched our inaugural Youth Educator Outdoor Training Week last season and is overjoyed to be joining the Manitoga camp staff. Each week, she will lead the children in art projects that echo the themes of the outdoor activities.

Mark and Linda are assisted by enthusiastic and caring **Counselors**, all of whom have previous experience working with children. Each member of the camp staff participates in a thorough orientation and safety training program prior to the start of our season. Our camp is small by design, with a maximum of 40 children per session. A low ratio of counselors to campers is maintained, rarely exceeding ten children per counselor, and each counselor is assisted by two **Teen Volunteers**.

## GUEST EDUCATORS

Weekly visits from **Guest Educators** form a key component of our program. Last season, architect James Hartford discussed ways to design habitats in harmony with nature and Bill Robinson brought guest creatures to share with campers during Reptile & Amphibian week. Katy Moss Warner led campers in Russel Wright's *Feel Nature* tour and Manitoga's very own tour guide Julie Corbett and Landscape Intern Erik Kops led a lesson in composting during Planet Protectors week.

# INTERRELATED NATURE ACTIVITIES AND ART PROJECTS BRING EACH WEEK'S THEME TO LIFE IN MULTI-FACETED WAYS

## 1 July 6 - 10 CREATURES FEATURED: REPTILES & BIRDS

We kick off the season with our most popular session, featuring wildlife found in and around Manitoga. We'll create terrariums where we can temporarily observe snakes, newts and salamanders discovered onsite. Brian Robinson returns to teach us about the avian world and give us a demonstration on birds of prey. Mr. Wick's own reptiles, while not native to New York, also make guest appearances during the week.

## 2 July 13 - 17 SUMMER CAMP ROCKS! GEOLOGY AT MANITOGA

Manitoga was a former granite quarry, so we know there is a lot of granite on the property. What other rocks and minerals are here? What else lies under the earth's surface at Manitoga? During geology week we'll discover the answer to this and other intriguing questions. We'll also dig clay from the site to create our own pieces fashioned after Russel Wright's designs for living!

## 3 July 20 - 24 LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

We'll "walk lightly on the earth," as we discover ways to help the environment and respect the planet. We'll learn to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Chris Bowser, Science Education Specialist for NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, will teach us orienteering skills such as using a compass, triangulation, finding directions without a compass and generally feeling comfortable in the woods.



Last season, camp family contributions helped purchase an equipment storage shed that doubles as a stage backdrop during Theatre Week.

## 4 July 27 - 31 WONDERS IN THE PLANT WORLD

This week we will interact with the growing things that surround us and learn about the life cycles and many uses for the plants found at Manitoga. *New York Botanical Garden* Botanist Daniel Atha will visit to teach us plant form and function and help us learn how Russel Wright incorporated these principles into the design philosophy of his 75-acre woodland garden.

## 5 August 3 - 7 SHAKESPEARE AT MANITOGA: THEATRE WEEK

Did you know that the very first performance of the *Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival* took place in Mary's Meadow in 1987? During theatre week, we'll present an adaptation of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the help of HVSF lead actress Nance Williamson. We'll build a stage set, create costumes and perform for parents and friends on the last day of the camp season.

### TEEN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Manitoga's Teen Volunteer Program gives adolescents an opportunity to work with children in an outdoor setting. Teen Volunteers assist camp staff with all aspects of the program. If your child, age 13 or older (**must be at least 13**) is inspired by the idea of becoming a volunteer for at least one full session, please contact the Manitoga office. Teen Volunteers are never left alone with the children. A required orientation session trains Teen Volunteers in camp safety, rules and procedures and helps them develop teamwork. Serving as a Manitoga Teen Volunteer satisfies the community service requirements of many schools and organizations.

### June 29 - July 2 SPECIAL YOUTH EDUCATOR OUTDOOR TRAINING WEEK

A four-day session designed for older youth interested in working at Manitoga or other camps, Youth Educator Outdoor Training Week introduces the basics of outdoor education as well as Russel Wright's design philosophy and vision for Manitoga. Noted regional Environmental Educator Linda Richards is joined by special guest educators to provide a hands-on introduction to environmental science and ecology, landscape design, architecture and outdoor learning. Cost is **\$200** (free of charge to 2009 Manitoga Counselors and Teen Volunteers).

584 Route 9D, P.O. Box 249  
Garrison, New York 10524



**MANITOGA**

THE RUSSEL  
WRIGHT  
DESIGN  
CENTER

DESIGNS FOR  
LIVING

HOME

WOODLAND  
GARDEN

NATURE & DESIGN SUMMER CAMP  
JULY 6 TO AUGUST 7, 2009  
FIVE ONE WEEK SESSIONS

NONPROFIT ORG.  
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### SAFE AND SOUND

The safety of each camper is paramount. Manitoga's Nature & Design Camp operates in strict compliance with Putnam County Department of Health regulations. The camp is inspected before the season begins and at intervals during the season and is issued a "Permit to Operate a Children's Camp" by the County. To comply with Health Department requirements, the Camp Director and Assistant Camp Director are certified in *CPR/First Aid and Response Training to Emergencies*.

### CAMP OPEN DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 2

New and returning campers are invited to Camp Open Day on Sunday, May 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm (rain date Sunday, May 3, same time). Come and enjoy this opportunity to meet camp staff, to experience the site and Russel Wright's National Landmark landscape, and to understand all that the program has to offer. Families are invited to hike Manitoga's trails before or after the event.

### BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF MANITOGA

Camp families become Manitoga members. As part of your membership, which you may purchase at the level of your choice, your family receives unlimited free access to the trails year-round, two free house and landscape tours during the season and invitations to our summer and fall Cocktail Walks. Memberships purchased at higher levels provide additional benefits, as detailed on our website. You will also enjoy discounts on Manitoga merchandise and regular e-newsletters that keep you up to date about programs and events. All memberships are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Each year, individuals, organizations and companies contribute to our scholarship fund to help ensure that all children, regardless of family resources, have an opportunity to experience the wonders of the Manitoga Summer Nature & Design Camp. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the scholarship fund in any amount you chose. To apply for a scholarship, please contact the Manitoga office. All requests are treated confidentially.

### REGISTRATION

Please register on-line by visiting our website, [www.russelwrightcenter.org/](http://www.russelwrightcenter.org/) and click on Summer Nature & Design Camp. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the Manitoga office at 845-424-3812 to receive a registration form by mail.

**COST PER SESSION: \$240; EARLY BIRD (BEFORE April 15) \$225**