

CAMPING TODAY

THE VOICE OF FAMILY CAMPERS & RVERS

August 2025 ISSUE

05

HANK NATHAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Our 5 scholarship winners are...

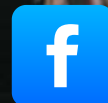
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WILDLIFE GRANTS

Our 3 grant winners are...



Printable PDF



@officialfcrv

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Please send articles through the 'Camping Today' Submission Portal Page:

<https://fcrv.org/camping-today-submission-forms/>

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Camping Today' Submission Forms

['Camping Today' is currently scheduled for release on the 15th of each month.]

[All content must be submitted by the 1st.]

Contact FCRVOFFICE@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems submitting material.

[Click on the hyperlink below for the type of 'Camping Today' submission you'd liked to send.](#)

[Articles](#) - [Event Recap](#) - [Birthday Shoutout](#) - [Milestone](#) - [Farewell](#) - [Dear RV](#) - [Event Submit](#)



YOUR CHAIR AWAITS



- International Camping Club
- Non-Profit Member Owned
- National & Local Events
- Wildlife & Conservation
- Scholarship Programs
- Youth, Teen, Adult and Retiree Programs

WWW.FCRV.ORG



From The President

August is a time of change for FCRV. We welcome a new member onto the Board of Trustees, and we say Goodbye to a past board member that steps off the board. We welcome Daniel Tinter to the Board as VP of Planning and Development, and we see Amy DeCamp step out of that position. I would like to thank Amy for the service and dedication to the position and to you the members. We developed a close bond, and, Amy, your wisdom will be missed. Again, I say Thank you.

I would also like to thank the Executive Board and Advisory Council for their valuable input at the executive Board meeting on Sunday at Campvention. I feel this meeting was very productive, and we had far more items to cover than we had time. Thank each of you for your wisdom and input into the discussion.

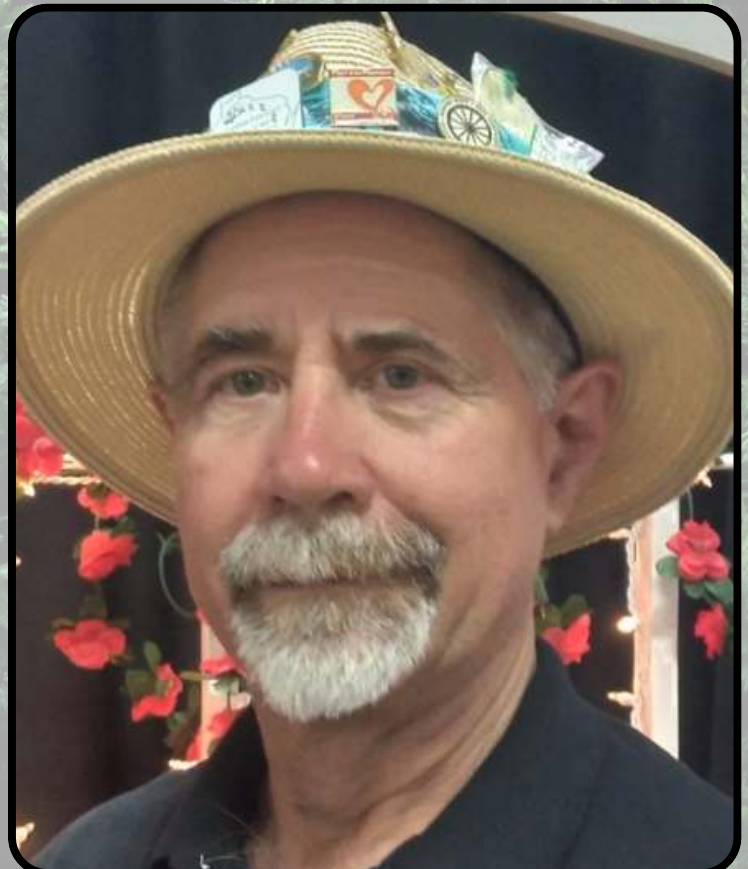
I also received the resignation of Linda Hennie as the National By-Laws and Parliamentarian. I would like to thank Linda for the years of service and her wisdom and council in this position. Thank you, Linda. Linda has always been there with answers to questions when called upon for a decision. I can say I always had faith and a deep trust in Linda's decisions. Linda, thank you for your service and sound council.

I welcome Sue Fromholzer as the New National By-Laws and Parliamentarian. I thank you for stepping up and joining us. I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you for stepping up.

FCRV is faced with the challenge of operating costs in the current economy and how do we make ends meet moving forward. We, like all organizations, are struggling in today's economy and with declining membership. The challenge is simply making ends meet with a membership that is shrinking and aging out. This is a challenge that we will continue to work on in the days to come.

I would like to say that it was great to see each of you that made it to Campvention 2025. I would also say to those that did not make it to Campvention we missed you and we look forward to seeing you in Huron, South Dakota in 2026.

Your Chair Awaits, See You at the Next Campout
Gerry Pfirsch
FCRV International President



Hank Nathan Scholarship News

2025 Hank Nathan Scholarship

By Stan & Fran Vozar, Scholarship Directors

Our Scholarship Committee is very pleased and proud to share with you the 2025 Hank Nathan International NCHA/FCRV Scholarship recipients. Their scholarship scores were tallied individually based on their Letter of Introduction, 2 Letters of Recommendation (at least one from a member of FCRV), Grades and Transcripts, as well as their love for camping, community service, and time management. The 2026 Scholarship Campaign will be announced in the December 2025 Edition of Camping Today.

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Emily Crombie

Connecticut

\$2,750

Junior University of Connecticut---Storrs, CT.

Major: Psychology

Jalyn Greenwood

North Carolina

\$2,150

Major: Civil Engineering University North Carolina
Wilmington

Kerri McHale

New York

\$1,525

Masters Program Psychology SUNY Brockport, New
York

Porter Slaterry

Kansas

\$2,900

Class of 2028 Major: Business Economics &
Accounting Drury University

Lindsey Vozar

Ohio

\$3,350

Class of 2027. Major: Kinesiology Pre-Med Miami
University, Ohio



Emily Crombie



Jalyn Greenwood



Kerry McHale



Porter Slaterry



Lindsey Vozar

Wildlife Grants

Wildlife Grants

By Tom Martinez

This was my second year, and I am still learning about job of Wildlife Director. We had nine applications submitted this year and awarded three \$1,000 grants. We were looking for support for the care, rehabilitation and release of animals and birds. The amount awarded is determined by the interest earned the previous year and our limit was \$3,000 this year.

This years 3 winners are:

West Wildlife Rehab

Shirley Dethlefsen - Ohio

westwildlife.org

Find a local facility either to buy or build for a central location. Need a facility to house the intake animals rather than in the homes of the volunteers.

Rehabilitate and release bats, cottontails, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and foxes. They have added a songbird rehabilitator, cardinals, blue jays, robins, and others. Need a place to store animal and bird food, not in the homes.

Scouts Canada – Attawandaron Camp

Rudy and Sharon Sandau - Ontario

Attawandaron.com

Youth co-ed programming for over 70,000 between the ages of 5 and 26. To develop well rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world. Through the scouting program, youth express a sense of civic responsibility and environmental awareness with an emphasis on nature.

Black Pines Animal Sanctuary

Angie Shaneyfelt – Indiana

pbsanctuary.org

It is a forever home for over seventy captive raised exotic wild animals.

Housing for wolves, foxes, tigers, bobcats, and bears.

They have a reptile house and avian building. Educating the public on exotic and wildlife



DASAT: Keeping a Healthy Brain

Keeping a Healthy Brain

By Joe Boswell, International DASAT Director

Let's reflect for a few minutes. Ever wondered about how your body works, especially the brain. Your body needs to be active, healthy, mobile and strong and so does your brain. There is an old saying, which many of you have heard growing up, it goes as follows: "use it or lose it". This applies to our ability to think, react, reason, and function properly on a daily basis. Your abilities to think clearly and reason begin to falter as one gets older. This is the natural process of aging.

According to Toluwalase Tofade, MD, neurologist at the MedStar Health center the following strategies to keep your mind sharp as a tack.

Manage your blood pressure: A good recommendation is to have a systolic blood pressure of 130 or below to reduce the risk of having a stroke. A stroke can impede your memory and basic brain function.

Consider having your hearing checked on a regular basis. Your brain is stimulated every minute of the day. The lack of ability to hear all sound accurately and clearly has the ability to increase the chances of dementia. In order to hear clearly hearing aids may be necessary to help with brain activity.

To prevent head injury, wear a seat belt at all times while in a vehicle. A helmet should be worn when riding a bike, or motorcycle. Look around your home or RV and reduce the tripping hazards like, throw rugs, etc.

Limit your alcohol consumption-too much alcohol will impair your judgment and thinking. If you must have a beverage of this type, limit yourself to less than five drinks per week.

Stop smoking, and stay away from second hand smoke. This can cause a higher risk of brain impairment, dementia, and a stroke.

Maintain a healthy weight for your body type, and keep your blood sugar level under control. Someone who is over weight, including type 2 diabetes is at risk for dementia and other brain related conditions. It is your responsibility to maintain a healthy weight and manage your blood sugar levels through a healthy diet and proper daily exercise.

Get plenty of sleep. Sleep is very important for maintaining proper memory processing, concentration, mood regulations and decision making. Sleep Apnea is a cause of sleep deprivation and other related disturbances. If you are unable to sleep through the night without interruption, seek medical advice.

Physical activity is important. Exercise, daily, walk, cardio, and strength training all help to improve the flow of blood to your brain. A daily routine of exercise helps to improve your brain acuity.

Avoid by all costs prolonged exposure to air pollution. Stay away from environmental toxins, especially air pollution. All of this can have a negative effect upon the brain.

Stay socially active if you are able. Create close relationships with family members and friends. Become active in a community organization or other social group. The more active you are the better stimulation brain activity takes place. It all creates a positive mental health.

"Whether you are in your 20's or your 70's, it is never too early, or too late, to make brain-healthy choices" according to Dr. Tofade.

Source:

MedStar Health publication

Medstar Health: Healthy Living, Summer 2025

Remembering Noreen Smith

Noreen Smith, Ontario

*By Barb Turner with info & photos from Kim Smith,
Noreen's daughter*

Noreen Smith, Ontario, passed away on Tuesday, June 3rd. At almost 97, she had led a long full life and was ready for that big campground in the sky. She had been declining for some time. When daughter Kim & Noreen could still carry on a conversation, her memories were of her camping family and all the good people she had met. Kim said her dad told her shortly before he passed on that he thought Heaven was the most beautiful campground he'd ever seen (Kim said it could have been the morphine talking!). That's where he said he was going, and he would have a spot for her. The link to Noreen's obituary is <https://wallcustance.com/acf-death-notices/l-noreen-smith/>. At this time, no service or celebration of life is planned.

Remembering Noreen.....where to begin? I don't have access to all the things Noreen & George did as members of NCHA/FCRV, but I do know that they were active from the beginning, joining NCHA in April, 1955 and serving the organization in various positions over the years and starting local chapters. They served as our Canadian Legislation Directors for many years. They received the NCHA Citation in 1975 and the NCHA Plaque in 1979. After George's passing in 2001, Noreen remained active. She was a charter member of the YARs chapter and received the Hank Nathan Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, the second recipient of that award. They enjoyed traveling, including spending many winters in the south. One of those Florida stops was spending time at the 'campground' at Ed & Jean Kibler's house.

Ed & Jean were their counterparts as US Legislation Directors for many years. Jean served as a Trustee, and Ed was FCRV's first Commercial Director among all of the other positions they'd held in the organization. As a side note, we also enjoyed spending time at the Kiblers' several times. They had room for about 4 units.

Another side note: September 9, 2001 we left our little red truck in which we carried FCRV merchandise to campouts with Barb Bancroft in Ortonville, MI and crossed to Canada to visit George & Noreen after his cancer diagnosis. As there wasn't any place to park our motorhome at their house, Noreen made arrangements for us to park in the parking lot of a furniture store nearby. We enjoyed a wonderful evening with George & Noreen and returned to Ortonville on September 10. We spent the evening with Barb before returning to Ohio on the 11th. As we were preparing to leave on the morning of the 11th, you all know what was happening. We were glued to the TV and wondering what was happening and going to happen.....and what we should do.....stay put there or go on back to Ohio. We chose the latter. That was very eerie as we listened to the radio, hearing about all the Detroit businesses that were closing and telling employees to stay home. We were traveling on I-75. As we got to the Ambassador Bridge to Canada, we saw that everything was at a standstill. Vehicles were stopped along the side of the highway where they would have exited to the bridge. We saw that all traffic on the bridge was stopped and would remain so for a long time. No one knew what to make of the situation or what to do. When we arrived back in Ohio at our house, we were so relieved to be home and near our family. So, in our memories, Noreen & George and 9/11 are linked.

Noreen served as a publicity link from Canada to Camping Today as well as serving as publicity chair for many Canadian activities/events. She asked me to be her publicity co-chair for Campvention 2006. I was a newbie to all of that. She taught me so much.

Noreen was such a good friend who has now joined that big campfire in Heaven. We'll join her and many others one day. Rest in Peace, Noreen!

Remembering Noreen Smith

Remembering Noreen Smith

By Nancy Edgar

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of my friend Noreen Smith. I knew her for about 50 years, having met her through NCHA/FCRV. Noreen devoted much of her time and talents to advancing the club through her contributions to various organization publications.

When my husband, Don Edgar, and I were club editors of *Camping Guide* and *Tent and Trail* in the 1960s and 1970s, Noreen worked hard as one of our associate editors. She and her husband George wrote the *Canadian Capers* section of club news each month. They also reported on legislative matters that affected Canadian members.

Noreen was always on time and submitted various news articles. She was a very dedicated member and will be greatly missed.

Nancy Edgar - Lifetime Member
Sandy, Oregon (formerly Michigan)



Welcome New Members

Family Campers & RVers would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Springs, William

Springs, Michelle

UT

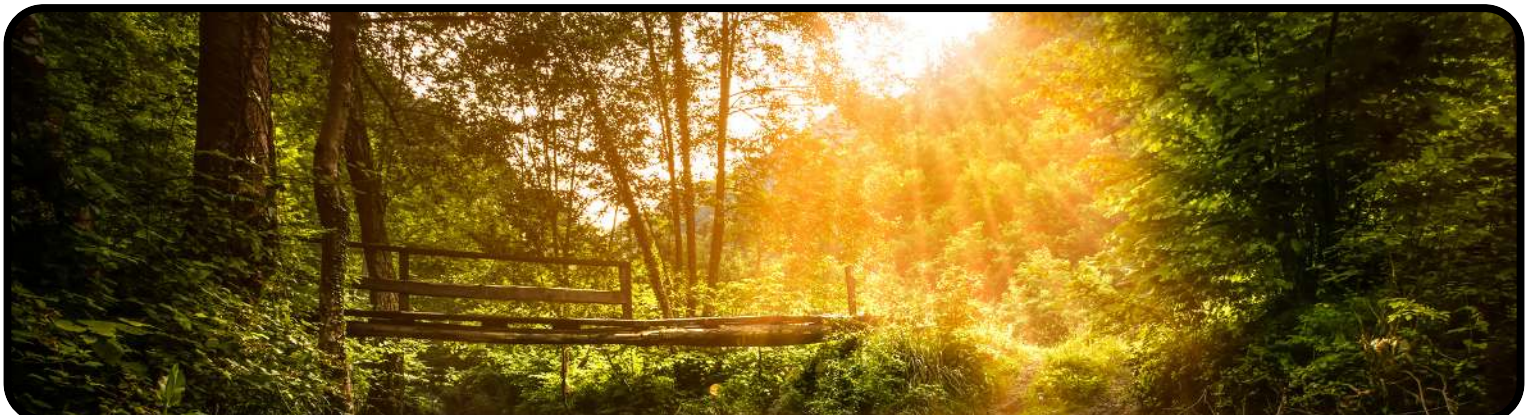
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Trustee Meeting Notes

These notes are now being stored in the Virtual Office by National and sent via email to the executive and advisory boards. These notes can and are encouraged to be shared throughout the organization. The archive and single page notes are set up as a shareable link that is viewable by any 3rd party.

A history of past minutes can be found [HERE](#).



2026 National Events

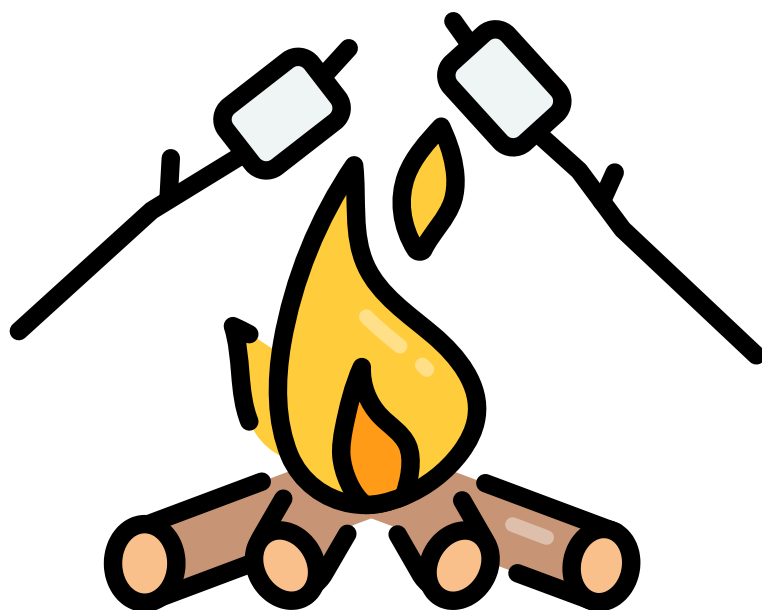
Upcoming information and registration for the 2026 national events will be released in the September issue of 'Camping Today'



Event Schedule & Recaps



[\[Click Here For Full Event Calendar\]](#)





Do you have questions about your RV, accessories, best practices, etc? Submit them to Dear RV and our staff will attempt to answer them. The answers are based on years of camping experience, but we don't guarantee that the answers will apply to your specific unit or situation. If someone submits a question and you can add to our answer OR have a better answer, please submit below with information about the original question. Your submission will be reviewed for possible publication in a future Dear RV Q&A. So, send us your questions and we will send you an answer. Remember, all submissions are anonymous. Us here at Dear RV! Question(s) or comment(s) for Dear RV.

Submit here: <https://fcrv.org/dear-rv/>

Dear RV

Dear RV, my sofa in the camper is breaking down. It is very uncomfortable to sit for any length of time. Can I replace it? Is it difficult? Expensive? What wisdom can you impart on doing or not doing this? Thanks for now.

Dear Sofa,
It happens with every camper if you've had it for any length of time. Yes, it can be replaced. There are several companies out there that have them. Measure carefully. Check the weight. It's as expensive as you want it to be, and you can find discounts or sales. The hardest part is getting the old one out and the new one in. Sometimes the new ones come in pieces. I have done it in my camper - replaced the jack-bed with 2 theatre seats with heat, massage, lumbar support, & adjustable headrest. The cloth very closely matches the camper interior so you can't tell they weren't original. Take your time. Find what fits you and your camper. You should be able to enjoy every part of your camping life.

Dear RV

I might have made a mistake in winterizing my camper. I placed it into storage, and after getting home, I think I left my vents open. I have Max covers, but a friend said that I should close it up tight during the winter. Another friend said I have nothing to worry about. What is correct? Do you have any reassuring info for me as I am not able to get into the building until it is time to take it out of storage.

Not Sure what to do!

Well, Not Sure
I have also been given both instructions: one to close the rig and the second to maintain air flow. I have Max covers, and I leave a vent open all winter. I am in a snowy area, and we have temperature ups and downs all winter. I find that I do not have moisture problems by leaving the vent open. If your rig is inside a building and you have a Max cover as well, I would say you have nothing to worry about having a vent open. I think your rig will be ok.
Thanks for asking and have a restful winter.

Your Stories

FCRV - "Where Friends Become Family"

By Linda Austin, New York

In October of 2007, we (Nyhl and Linda Austin from NYS) registered for a Florida State campout since the registration was to be sent to Larry Preston, the same name as my husband's cousin. Well, it wasn't the same person, but we really had a good time at this campout held at the LeLynn RV Resort, near Polk City! Another couple, Jim and Barb Turner, were also attending. At that time, we did not know each other. At the campout, we signed up for the Bizzy Beaver, the FSA newsletter. When the Bizzy Beaver was next published, birthdays and anniversaries were listed. When reading it, Barb noticed that the Turners and the Austins were married on the exact same date, June 5, 1965! That was the beginning of a new, long, and valued friendship! Jump ahead, and Barb Turner started getting all couples married in 1965 to have lunch together at the 2015 Campvention, our 50th anniversary year! That luncheon plan continued during future Campvention weeks.

The Austin/Turner bond strengthened since we learned each had family living in Ohio. As either of us would travel on I-75, Barb and I would send each other the photo of the "Florence Y'all" water tower near Cincinnati. As we were approaching our 60th anniversary, we needed to celebrate together. On June 5, 2025 the four of us met for an extended lunch at Der Dutchman in Plain City, Ohio. It was like a family reunion with each of us sharing and learning even more about our lives! Yes, it is true, "Where Strangers Become Friends & Friends Become Family" due to FCRV!



New Firefighter

By Rodney O'Neal

The Lake Ozark Fire Protection District would like to welcome Rodney O'Neal to its ranks! In Rodney's own words: "My name is Rodney O'Neal, I have 12 years in the fire service starting as an Explorer all the way to my career. I enjoy spending time with my wife and children, traveling, and trying new foods my wife convinces me to eat. I am excited to start my long tenure with LOFPD due to the various PR's they are a part of and for being assigned to B-shift, where we have a great battalion chief and for FF Box and Quick who look to take us under their wings and guide us in the right direction to be successful firefighters for this organization!"

Rodney is the son of Michael & Rhonda O'Neal, Illinois State Directors, and the brother of Beth O'Neal Lewis, our 2017 FCRV Teen Queen.





Personalized garments; drinkware; clings; decals; kitchen & bath items. You can choose from our large graphic collection or use your photos or designs.

For FCRV branded items:

https://stores.inksoft.com/fc_rv/shop/home

For other items:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/marshallcreations16/shop/home>

Call or text: 410-533-0038

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