

Jonathan's March 2010 email

As we March forward this month to opening another season, we hope we helped you start your Capon preparations with the annual spring mailing you received recently. Based on the calls and emails from new guests, some of you must have already passed along the information we included to introduce your family and friends. We would appreciate knowing what you thought about the new mailing format and what it was like to share the new guest piece. Participate in our first ever online survey (6-questions) by clicking the link below.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QZ7NMWL>

We appreciate your input! We will gather responses until April 15. When you take part in our long standing "word of mouth" tradition you keep the connections going from generation to generation.

To help introduce new folks, we also upgraded our website to include a "Welcome New Guests" section. Now those who are discovering Capon for the first time have a virtual guide through our online tour. To make our homepage even more inviting, we just added a slide show. And since our new DVD is so popular, we posted more of the bonus features on specific pages like Guest Reviews. See if you can find the other ones! (If you need another copy of the DVD to give your family and friends, let us know).

These improvements to our "Word of Mouth" tradition are the result of looking toward our future while being true to our past. Since the sharing of Capon from person to person has always been a cornerstone of the informal and caring atmosphere we all experience here, the question is-how do we keep that going? To find answers, I will be looking to have conversations with you during the 2010 season. Let's see if we can discover new and creative ways to make necessary connections with those who would appreciate the Capon experience, especially during weeknights in the Spring and Fall.

We already know that those of you who come regularly, especially the same time every year, appreciate the importance of the friendships we make here. Yet, it still amazes us how close the relationships become. This fact is never more evident then during life's most challenging times. Recently, when tragically cancer took the life of a vibrant young wife and mother, forty or so Capon guests from her summer week traveled significant distances to be there to support the family during their time of loss. It was inspiring to witness and be part of such a tremendous outpouring of love and caring as we celebrated her life.

Weddings are also times families come together to mark life transitions. As Ginny mentioned in last months' email, my niece Megan will be getting married this coming September. When she first got engaged, she approached me about carrying on my father's legacy of officiating at family weddings. That inspired me to become trained as a wedding celebrant and get on the official register to administer ceremonies in both West Virginia and Virginia. So, that means you have another reason to consider having a destination wedding at Capon, my complimentary ceremony services!

Being the only family member left with young kids, I still get to brag about my own family. Betsy continues to pull the full teacher workload as she brings Katie along in her home-schooling education. To supplement her learning, our bright and rambunctious 6 1/2 year old participates in ballet/tap dance lessons and attends music class at Shenandoah's Arts Academy. Meanwhile, her big brother Stephen continues to excel in his own studies, recently winning the local math field competition among all 8th graders. Still, his passion outside of school is aviation. Besides getting a complete flying-themed room makeover for Christmas (thanks Capon guest pilots!), he enjoys practicing with his computer flight simulator. In fact, he recently took the real controls as he co-piloted a Cessna as part of the Young Eagles program. This organization will provide him the opportunity to move to the next level when they sponsor him at the EAA Aviation Academy in Wisconsin this coming June.

Well, I am my usual long winded self and could go on and on. But, I think I'll wait until you get here and we can have those conversations I was talking about. That way we can not only catch up, but brainstorm about how we can keep Capon going for generations to come. See you soon!

Jonathan
For the Capon Family

PS Did you see the new programs offered this Spring? I'm very excited about having one of the nation's foremost experts on the Shroud of Turin coming May 24-26 and our first ever youth nature camp June 14-16. Read more about them here. Don't forget to see all the other changes to the website. http://www.caponsprings.net/seasonal_programs.html