

Pasquaney *archives*



Fun... I'm going to have fun on Hobbs Field. What does that mean? What does having fun entail? Fun is such a deceptively simple word. Yet it knows no real bounds. It is one of the first words children learn, and it's what they do best. We can learn a lot from little ones and our own inner child. We were all little once and all had the ability to have unadulterated fun, laugh, and be goofy. One of my young cousins put it best. She was watching a children's TV show and they were talking about how you need to teach kids how to be creative. She scrunched up her face and said straightly you don't need to teach kids to be creative.

Why are young ones so good at having fun? Well, they are uninhibited, they don't really understand they should be embarrassed about running around naked in the front yard. They are very good at living in the moment and being spontaneous. It's hard to dwell in the past when you can't remember it all that well. And I think the key to it all is they are not afraid to laugh. We were born with these traits that enable us to have fun. It is a natural human need to get wild and crazy.

Unfortunately we grow into ourselves and become self-conscious about how other people perceive our actions and in turn this stifles our natural ability to have fun. As people grow up the trend is to grow serious and straight-faced. Put on a game face and make a lot of money. While money is a good thing, it is a means to an end in which the end is sometimes forgotten. The motivation behind making money is in the end to have fun and be happy. However, people may fall into a cycle of making more and more money and forget their original motivation. This is just one example of many where people begin innocently and end up taking themselves way too seriously. I don't think anyone would ever say they would like to stop having fun and just be serious for the rest of their lives.

However, like in all things a balance must be found. In high school my main concern was to have as much fun as possible. I went crazy and FELT as though I was having fun, but in the end I was hurting the people I loved. I was having fun at other's expense. I was acting in complete disregard for those around me. And in a way it was the exact opposite of growing too serious. I was using fun as a means and an end in itself.

So how do we find the balance between drowning in seriousness or falling off the deep end of enjoying one's self? We can go back to children and learn from their lessons. For one, we can be less inhibited, but to be able to do this fully we need to find people with whom we can be our true, untailed selves. We should find people who we can be at home with so we can get back to being free of the conventional constrictions. In doing this I have found that the second ingredient comes naturally. When I'm comfortable I find myself more in the moment and present with those around me. When I am fully aware and engaged I find that I am having more fun. The third lesson we can learn is to laugh more often. Laughing is therapeutic. And unless you're like Luke I think we can all laugh a little more and add a bit more humor to our day.

These three ingredients I have just described will never be perfectly realized, but the closest I've personally ever come is on this hillside. The summers I have spent here have been the happiest most fun filled of any. And the main reason is not because I've taken a microscope to my character, but from learning from the lessons which having fun teaches. I have had fun learning from Dave Reed how to build a Dingy and from that engagement and interest I've learned more about my character than I ever would have if I tried to think my

way there. I've had fun interacting with ALL my Pasquaney brothers, and in turn reaped the benefits of having amazing relationships in which I can grow and help others grow. And to draw on Townley's Sermon yesterday I feel that in true friendships there is true love. So I challenge us all to be freer, more present, and laugh more often. And as a result have more fun. Because if you're not enjoying it, what is the use in doing it.