

The FRIEDENSWORD

Camp Friedenswald

Volume 28, Issue 1: April 2020

Camp Friedenswald provides people of all ages the opportunity to grow in relationship with God, self, others and nature.

A reflection on 70 years

by Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director

As I reflect on Camp Friedenswald's seventy year history, a metaphor comes to mind—a friendship bracelet. Imagine your life as a friendship bracelet with threads woven, knotted, and twisted together. Some strands you select with care; others select you. Some colors bold and constant; others faded and barely holding. Now imagine one thread representing Camp Friedenswald.

You hold a copy of *The Friedensword* in your hands, which suggests that Camp Friedenswald is woven into your friendship bracelet. For some, the thread might be thin, adding a bit of color: a brief visit to the *peaceful woods* decades ago. For others, the thread might appear inextricably woven throughout: summer romance turned into marriage, or the place you could stand when the ground beneath your feet seemed to be falling. And, for many, something in between: a week-long summer camp experience that sparked one's life of faith; an encounter that fostered a love of creation; annual winter camps punctuated by slope runs, hot chocolate and lasting friendships.

Without a doubt, over its seven decades Camp Friedenswald has entangled itself into the lives of many people, families, and congregations.

en•tan•gle. *cause to become twisted together or caught up in.*

British writer Robert Macfarlane introduced me to this concept in his book *Underland: A deep time journey*, and it struck a chord. Camp Friedenswald is entangled with my life; perhaps with yours, too. *Entangled* suggests more than *connection*. It's not clean or straight-forward. It is inextricable, and can be messy, though beautiful, too.

Throughout my time at Camp Friedenswald, I've experienced an increasing recognition of the ways these messy, entangled relationships make up our lives—relationships not only with *people* but with *all* creation. We recognize, for example, that the Mitchell's satyr butterfly, an endangered species that lives among the wetland's sedges and grasses at camp, is dependent on the clean, fresh water supply that we need to survive. Our human needs are entangled with the needs of this tiny, brown butterfly. Attempting to mitigate and repair past negative impacts on this rare species—untangle what feels like an ugly knot—we work with experts in the field to monitor and improve environmental conditions, knowing that improvements will be mutually beneficial.

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Above: Campers weave friendship bracelets during High School Camp.

Left: A sign of spring in the peaceful wood. Trillium carpets the slopes of Turtle Hill. Photo credit: Alan Blunt.

continued from page 1

While we work to restore relationships with our non-human community at camp, we also must recognize the tragic history of indigenous peoples who inhabited this land prior to the arrival of Europeans. It is jarring and unsettling to realize these past atrocities, and the work to right past wrongs sometimes seems impossible. Over the past number of months camp staff have been struggling with these difficult questions and realities, uncertain where they might lead. How do we respond to the desperate cry that this place would have been better off without us, to a new awareness of a thread woven into our bracelets that we wish wasn't there?

Seventy years, here, in southwest Michigan, we are inextricably entangled with story and land more complex than we can know. And so we actively work towards restoration, seeking to honor and perhaps repair worn or torn threads. We recognize that our impact here has not always been positive, hope that our efforts today are restorative, and acknowledge the fact of uncertainty that underlies our decisions. Sometimes it's in the midst of messy entanglement that something beautiful emerges.

How is Camp Friedenswald woven into your story? Do you have a collection of old camp t-shirts? (page 3) We'd like to hear from you! We're collecting photos of people in their camp t-shirts from across the decades and the stories that go with them. Send your stories and photos to Program@Friedenswald.org.



Year-round staff

Vicki Archer, *dishwasher*
Eric Emerson, *food service assistant*
Heather Emerson, *housekeeper*
Jonathan Fridley, *facilities director*
Andrea Golden, *bookkeeper*
Naomi Graber Leary, *program director*
Vicky Solano Hawkins, *housekeeper*
Amy Huser, *sustainability & outdoor education director*
Kevin Leary, *program coordinator*
Jenna Liechty Martin, *executive director*
Skye McKinnell, *sustainability intern*
Anita & Paul Pawelski, *guest hosts*
Deb Sprunger Martens, *guest group coordinator*
Ellie Solano, *food service director*

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Alita Yoder - Goshen, IN

Contact us:

15406 Watercress Way
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-476-9744
camp@friedenswald.org
www.friedenswald.org

Introducing Grand-Family Camp:

Grandparents & Grandkids - this camp is for YOU!

Calling all grandparents—join us the weekend of August 28-30, 2020 to experience your favorite camp activities with your grandchildren! Geared for children grades k-8, there will be time for arts & crafts, swimming & boating, recreation, hiking, and campfire. Grandfamilies will stay together in a cabin. Take this opportunity to create memories with your grandchildren at Camp Friedenswald and to share a love of the outdoors and the peaceful woods with the next generation.

The weekend begins Friday evening (after dinner) and concludes with brunch on Sunday morning. Registration is open online at friedenswald.org or contact Program@Friedenswald.org with any questions.

We are looking forward to this new camp program and hope you'll join us!



Marie Blunt (left) and Gayle Gerber Koontz (right) creating memories with their grandchildren at Camp Friedenswald.

Staff transitions

In March, we said farewell to Amber Parker, housekeeper, after seven years of service. Over that time, Amber served Camp Friedenswald well, always wanting to make sure that campers were welcomed into a clean cabin. We will miss Amber's presence on our staff and the understanding and connections she brought with the local community. Amber is stepping away in order to spend more time with her growing grandchildren and to pursue personal interests. Thank you, Amber, for your faithful service to Camp Friedenswald!



Camp apparel across generations

By Naomi Graber Leary, program director

I count myself lucky to have grown up spending most of my summers at Camp Friedenswald. After serving as Camp Director in camp's early years, my grandparents Dan and Marge Graber returned to Camp Friedenswald as summer volunteers in the '90's-00's. I have dear memories of trailing behind my grandfather as he cared for the grounds, plants, and camp buildings in his retirement. In addition to the fond memories, I was also blessed with their camp t-shirt collection when my grandmother passed away several years ago. Ever since, I've been looking for a way to honor my grandparents and their love of Camp Friedenswald.

As we enter a new decade, I was inspired to look back. I started by pulling out the old t-shirts and realized: these t-shirts hold stories. So I got an idea: what if we created a collection of photos showing off Camp Friedenswald t-shirts over the years? And, better yet, what if we could see the faces of those who love camp wearing the shirt?

I started my little project by recruiting summer staff to put on a fashion show – see below. (This might fall under their “other duties as assigned”!) They were so excited by the “vintage” t-shirts that when the show came to an end they asked if they could keep the t-shirts. After a moment of pause I realized: what better way to honor Grandpa Dan and Grandma Marge than to pass their t-shirts on to another generation of staff

who share not blood, but a common love for the peaceful woods?

I'd like to invite YOU to help with this project! Join us in honoring the many years of love and joy at Camp Friedenswald by sending us a photo of yourself in a Camp Friedenswald t-shirt. Bonus points for photos that span generations and families! And remember to thank the person who bought you the t-shirt, or who brought you to this place, just as I am grateful for Grandma Marge and Grandpa Dan and the love they poured into this place, and into me.

As Program Director, I am grateful for those who came before me. Each summer is full of new promise as staff and campers create a new camp community. I'm also mindful that as we create something new, we are always building upon the foundation laid by countless people who came before us, helping to shape the community Camp Friedenswald is today.

Dan Graber in one of his many camp t-shirts.



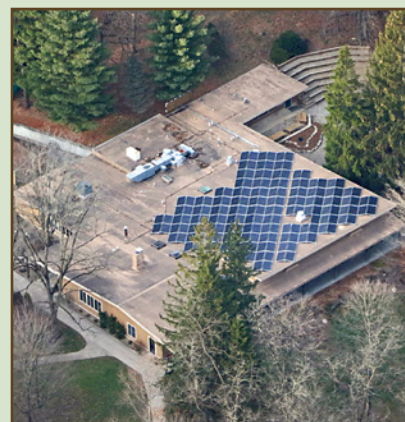
Solar & Energy Initiative update: A time for blessing

On November 2, following a Camp Board meeting, a small group of people gathered to officially bless the 180 solar panels and to welcome the sun into the camp community in a new way.

In true camp fashion we sang “This little light of mine” and, while overlooking the roof-top, we shone our lights on the panels with these words of blessing:

We live by the sun, we move with the stars. Bless these panels as they provide renewable energy for Camp Friedenswald and inspiration for all who come to the peaceful woods!

Next time you visit Camp, look up! Join us in giving thanks for the sun and the solar panels!



CAMP FRIEDENSWA

The persons, churches, and organizations listed contributed as Builders to Camp
during this time and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly
Thank you for your g

Jan Althaus
Randy & Kenda Amstutz
Seth Wiebe Andreas
Pam Anglemyer
Don Augspurger
Rachel Augspurger
J.O. & Elizabeth Augspurger
Wendell Badertscher & Esther
Nafziger
Jim & Lois Bare
Marvin & Delores Bartel
Scott & Nancy Baum
Richard & Marjorie Baum
Howard & Phyllis Baumgartner
Thomas & Jeannette Bechtel
Marie G Beechy
Justin & Erin Beeker
David & Karen Behrens
Ted & Gretta Beitler
Edgar & Beverly Benner
Terry Berg & Cathy Beery Berg
Dave & Evie Bertsche
Hilary Bertsche
John & Evelyn Bertsche
Gary & Marilyn Bishop
Don & Carolyn Blosser
Amy Blount
Allan & Marie Blunt
Emma Bontrager
Ben and Yasi Bouwman
Michael & Connie Brandt
Tim & Alysha Braun
Shelby Burge
Jon Carver
Ricardo Castillo
Terry & Bobbie Chappell
Amalia Chappell-Lakin
Virgil & Louise Claassen
Ashton Cluts
Richard & Kathleen Collins

John Courtney
Michael Crosby
Lu Derstine
Kent & Teresa Dutchersmith
Phil & Cindy Eicher
Mary Eicher
Jim & Linda Eicher
Kirk & Heather Eicher-Miller
Suzanne Estvanko
Melissa and Jacob Florer-Bixler
Roger & Mary Flueckiger
John Fox & Mary Habegger Fox
George & Barb Fridley
Joelle Friesen
Jon & Janelle Friesen
Payton Gallery
Brian & Christine Gehman
Luke Geiser
Marlin Gerber
John Gerber
Daniel & Jan Gingerich
Isaac Godshalk
Lisa Schirch
Joel & Barbara Graber
Peter & Mary Graber
Jonathan & Phoebe Graber
Cal Graber
Julia Graber & Raphael LaFrance
Nathan Graber-McCrae
Erik Grayvold & Angela Moore
Caroline Greaser
John & Jan Gundy
Jim & Bev Haas
Ronald & Ladonna Habegger
Marge Habegger
Gary & Carla Habegger
Mike & Gwen Habegger
Lydia Hartman-Keiser
Kelly Hartzler
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Greg & Laura Hartzler
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Wilbur & Elizabeth Hershberger
Galen Hershberger
Stefan & Karen Hershberger
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Mary Hofstetter
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Hans & Linda Houshower
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Amy Huser
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Steve & Jan Johnson
Barry & Janeen Bertsche Johnson
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Hunsberger
Vernon & Shirley King
Titus King
Jeremiah Kinney
Todd & Alison Kirkton
Jim & Vicky Kirkton
Tim & Sarah Koontz
Gayle Gerber Koontz
Seth Kurtz
Doug & Joy Landis
Mark & Trixy Larimer
Roger and Tanya Leach
Kevin Leary & Naomi Graber
Leary
George & Anita Lehman
Scott & Greta Lehman
Jim & Bertie Lehman
Robert & Miriam Liechty
John Liechty & Joy Lambright
Liechty
Nancy Liechty Loewen

Douglas & Mary Liechty-Caskey
Gale Livengood
Dorothy Loepp
Tim & Cindy Luginbill
Doug & Paula Luginbill
Natalie Mark
David Mark
James & Audra Mark
Arlene Mark
Wesley Mark & Mary Harder
Deb Martens
Phil Martens & Janet Liechty
Daryl & Karen Martin
Peter Martin & Jenna Liechty
Martin
Carrie Mast
John Mattson & Lucretia Wilson
Mattson
Maurice Stahly Family
Endowment
Rodney & Carolyn McDaniel
Abraham Medellin
Pete and Cheryl Roscher
Mikinka
Edward & Twila Miller
Dr. Gene & JoAnn Miller
Tom D. and Susan Miller
Imogene Miller
Darvin & Kathy Miller
Brent Miller & Megan Stauffer-
Miller
Thomas & Sonya Miller
Darren Miller & Anna Ruth
Hershberger
Phil & Karen Miller Rush
Moser Motor Sales
Millard & Janean Moser
David Moser & Ingrid Friesen
Moser
Mary Anne Moser



WALD BUILDERS

Camp Friedenswald from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. If you gave directly, please accept our apologies and notify Jenna Liechty Martin. Your generous support!

Jonatan Moser
Daniel Naylor
Ruth Naylor
Lewis Naylor
David Nester
Kevin & Kendra Nickel
Jerry & Virginia Nussbaum
Walt Paquin & Rhonda Winstead
Martha Penner
Scott & Judy Preheim
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Peter & Jodi Quint
Kyle Ramirez Zugold
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Donna Suter
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Donald & Beth Troyer
Josh & Paige Troyer
Amanda Van Leeuwen
Dale Way
Joshua Weaver & Julia Gingrich
Katherine Weaver
Simon Weaver & Sarah Hartman-Keiser
Curtis & Shelly Weaverdyck
Rodney & Julie Weber
Laura Weber
Martha West
Clara Weybright
Aden Weybright
Brian & Brenda Wiebe
Dan & Kathleen Wilson
Penny Yarman
Alita Yoder
Kent & Gaye Yoder
Daniel Yoder & Talashia Keim Yoder
Enos Yoder
Matthew Yoder

CHURCHES

Assembly Mennonite Church
Bluffton University SERVE
Eighth Street Mennonite Church
Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship
Faith Mennonite Church
First Mennonite Church of Bluffton
First Mennonite Church of Sugarcreek
First Mennonite Church of Urbana-Champaign
Grace Mennonite Church
Hively Avenue Mennonite Church
Koinonia Class, First Mennonite Church of Berne
Madison Mennonite Church
Maplewood Mennonite Church
Mennonite Church of Normal
North Danvers Mennonite Church
Oak Grove Mennonite Church
Open Table Mennonite Fellowship
Prairieview Mennonite Church
Salem Mennonite Church (Kidron)
Silverwood Mennonite Church
Sunnyside Mennonite Church

2019 MEMORIAL GIFTS

Arlene Christner
Chester Lehman
Kent Sprunger
Zach Truex

FOUNDATIONS & FUNDS

Maurice Stahly Family
Endowment Fund

Who is a Builder?

A Builder is someone who believes in the work of Camp Friedenswald and is committed to supporting its mission by providing essential financial support (\$500 or more annually) and/or volunteering five or more days each year.

2019 Projects completed

- New seating and decking on path to Cottonwood Center
- New dining hall chairs
- Night sky friendly lighting
- 180 solar panels installed on Dining Hall roof
- Renovations to Boat House at Main Beach
- Replaced water well serving Lakeview and Tamarack

Below: Volunteers help with a variety of tasks from painting, to cleaning, to cooking, to picking up sticks. Builders keep Camp running!



2019 BY THE NUMBERS:

Driven by our values of faith, peace, stewardship, and nature, we've been energized by the work that's taken place as we've lived into Camp's Resilience & Sustainability Plan. Over the past two years, with the help of volunteers, we've taken steps towards making Camp Friedenswald more resilient and sustainable, with the hope that our collective effort will positively impact campers and the earth for years to come. Here's a glimpse into the work that's taken place in 2019, by the numbers.

38,168

Kilowatt hours

In 2019, Camp reduced electricity usage by 38,168 kWh. This is a 12.7% reduction from 2015, and 1.5% lower than the previous year. Such savings is equal to Camp reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 27 metric tons of CO₂ or 3.1 homes total energy use for the year.



100%

UTZ certified

All of the coffee served in the Dining Hall meets environmental and social standards labeled as "UTZ certified"

100

Staff hours

100 hours spent by staff on intercultural competency and anti-racism training

51%

Managed land

164 acres were actively managed for ecological restoration or invasive plant removal

88%

Diversion rate

88% of Dining Hall waste recycled or composted during family camp (according to a three day sample period)

22

Compost cubes

22 4'X4' Compost cubes were filled with compostable material (an increase of 9 from previous year)

4,860

Pounds recycled

4,860 pounds of single stream recyclables recycled, equal to removing 7.10 metric tons of CO₂, which is equal to taking 1 vehicle off the road or saving 798 gallons of gasoline

9,250

People served

Over 200 groups and 9,250 experienced retreat and renewal through their visit in the peaceful woods in 2019

22

Bird/Bat houses

22 bird or bat houses were added across Camp to bring the total to 32

2,035

Veggie meals

2,035 all-camp vegetarian meals served throughout the year (1 meal = 1 plate)



1**Trail map**

One new trail map was designed and printed to encourage campers to get into the woods and onto the over 6 miles of hiking trails

10**Acres planted**

10 acres were planted with native oak savanna seed

**0.4****Pounds of food**

.4 lbs of food waste per summer camper (compared to 4.6 lbs for average American)

742**Volunteer days**

Faithful volunteers keep Camp running by assisting with programs, cooking, cleaning, painting, and building. Thank you!

30%**Scholarship increase**

A total of \$8,900 was provided in camper scholarships to make it possible for campers to attend summer camp

1**Book published**

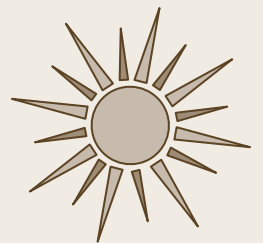
A Year on Turtle Hill, a creative field guide on camp's ecosystems by Susie Huser was published and launched in 2019

23**Purchasing wins**

23 sustainable purchasing goals implemented by staff across all Camp departments

180**Solar Panels**

180 solar panels on the Dining Hall roof went "online" beginning October 24th, 2019. The panels are projected to produce 25% of Camp's overall electricity usage. Over \$180,000 was given by Camp's Builders towards the Solar & Energy Initiative – thank you!

**80****Community Solar Panels**

Solar energy created by 80 solar panels off-camp (leased from our local utility) helps to provide clean energy to four staff homes. In 2019, these panels produced 14% of Camp's total electricity usage.

986**Campers**

986 campers participated in Camp's programs in 2019

47**Bus riders**

47 campers rode the 8th Street Mennonite Church bus, reducing the number of cars on the road

Learn more about Camp's Resilience and Sustainability Plan and our progress to date at friedenswald.org.

Longing for peace. Longing for renewal. Longing for connection. Longing for joy.



CAMP FRIEDENSWALD SUMMER 2020

Longing for you, Lord



SUMMER SCHEDULE 2020

June 14-19: High School Camp

June 21-25: Pre Junior Camp

June 25-27: Primary Camp

June 28-July 3: Junior High Camp

July 5-10: Junior Camp

July 13-17: Family Camp I

July 18-19: Builders Weekend

July 20-24: Family Camp II

August 21-23: Grown-Up Camp

August 28-30: Grand-Family Camp



Read and Recycle



Return Service Requested

15406 Watercress Way
Cassopolis, MI 49031

