

The FRIEDENSWORD

Camp Friedenswald

Volume 25, Issue II: October 2017

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

Summer 2017 Snapshots: Psalms for the Journey

The following two reflections, written by summer staff, provide a glimpse into summer 2017 at Camp Friedenswald.

I always have the same two initial reactions when I arrive at Camp Friedenswald. The first is a strange feeling of peace and home-ness, even though camp is very far from home. The second is awe. Awe at the trees. I look up and up and up because the trees around my home (Kansas) are dwarfs compared to Friedenswald trees. When the camp pastor, Holly Zehr, had us do the tree pose during morning watch, I couldn't help thinking about how fitting it was because one of my favorite things about camp is the trees. The trees grow, silently and in their place, like guardians of all that camp stands for, while the campers run about, growing as well but with great noise and no knowledge of the value of stillness. Or at least, not many campers. It is, of course, impossible to generalize about campers as they have as much variety amongst them as the trees in the woods.

Kaitlin Abrahams, Summer Staff

My first week of counseling, I was more than a little intimidated. This is my first summer both working as a counselor and being at Friedenswald. As I sat on the porch of Maple Cabin, waiting for my first high school camper to arrive, I thought, "Wow, a lot of people are trusting me right now - parents, campers, my employers, my co-counselors." Trust. That's the thing I've experienced over and over again - and had to use, myself, quite frequently. This summer, I've learned so many things (most of which are still very unprocessed in my mind), but the one clear theme of the summer is trust. When things went wrong and when things were going perfectly; when there was grief and intense overflowing happiness; when there was conflict and harmony, everybody had to use so much trust.

With this kind of trust, I've realized, comes intense connection and the building of community. At the end of each week, I was amazed by how close I felt with each of my campers, my co-counselors, and camp, in general. This summer has been one of many connections and forming of intense bonds with the people and the place around me. This trust, such incredible trust, has allowed me to feel a part of this camp, even though I've only been here six weeks, and for that I am incredibly grateful.

Clara Weybright, Summer Staff

High school campers walk the woods on Outdoor Adventure Day and (right) decorate their cabin in the day's theme of "Praise!"



THANK YOU to our 2017 Summer Staff!



Year-round Staff

Pam Anglemeyer, *Volunteer Facilities Assistant*
Vicki Archer, *Dishwasher*
Jonathan Fridley, *Facilities Director*
Andrea Golden, *Bookkeeper*
Naomi Graber Leary, *Program Director*
Amy Huser, *Sustainability & Outdoor Education Director*
Kevin Leary, *Program Coordinator*
Jenna Liechty Martin, *Executive Director*
Amber Parker, *Housekeeper*
Anita Pawelski, *Guest Host*
Deb Sprunger Martens, *Guest Group Coordinator*
Ellie Solano, *Food Service Director*
Vicky Solano Hawkins, *Food Service/Housekeeper*

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Karen Valladares, Honduras, MCC IVEP Program
Amanda Van Leeuwen, Niles, MI, Community Baptist Christian School
Kate Weaver, Lancaster, PA, Eastern Mennonite University
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In memory of Mary (Marge) Graber

Marge served alongside her husband, Dan Graber, as camp director at Camp Friedenswald in the 1950's and 60's. After their retirement in 1989, they returned to the peaceful woods annually for several months at a time. Author of Camp's 50th anniversary history book, "Vision, Faith, Service," Marge knew Camp unlike any other and generously shared her gifts with Friedenswald, helping to further its mission. In the Preface of the history book, Marge reflects on recording Camp's history and the "persons 'who made it happen.'" Marge was one of those who "made it happen."



Marge is pictured at far right, with son Peter Graber, and grand-daughter Naomi Graber Leary (2015).

Renew Friedenswald: Update



Naomi Leary and Jenna Liechty Martin reading Litany of Praise.

After nine months of living and working in the midst of a construction zone, renovations to the cabins, Sandhill Lodge, and Cottonwood Center/Chapel, are complete! In fact, they've already been broken in by a summer's worth of campers, families, and church groups. A rainy evening's campfire took place in Cottonwood; summer staff settled into Sandhill to work and rest; and for over nine weeks, the cabins housed campers. We are grateful for the good work of DJ Construction, who completed the updates in time for the busy summer season. Most especially, we are thankful for **Camp's Builders** who enabled the vision for Renew Friedenswald to become a reality through financial gifts, labor, and prayers.

On July 15, over 150 people gathered to celebrate and dedicate the renewed facilities "to the Glory of God," as was first done in 1950 when the cornerstone was laid in Cabin 8.

The service brought together people from across Camp's constituency and history, and was a part of the annual Builders' Weekend Celebration.

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Duane Gundy (pictured top left), former Maintenance Director, led singing of long-time favorite camp songs. **Doug Luginbill** (pictured top right), Conference Minister of Central District Conference and former Executive Director, offered a prayer and words of benediction. Pictured top center: worship center representing Camp's past, present, and future.

During a litany of praise, representatives of camp's vision, congregations, staff, campers, and Builders, among others, stood in recognition of the many people who have been, and will continue to be, vital to Camp's ministry. Litany representatives pictured above left to right: **Staff families** – Peter Graber, son of the late Dan and Marge Graber (1958-68); and Haley Kirkton, daughter of Todd and Alison Kirkton (2002-06); **Camp Committee & Board Members** – Mary Habegger Fox, Board Chair, Berne, IN; **Vision** – James Sommer, grandson of O.J. Sommer who signed papers to purchase original 40 acres; Leona Yoder, camp nurse in 1950's and late husband J.O. Yoder served as first director from 1950-58; **Congregations** – Julia Gingrich, Pastor at Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN and former summer staff; **Volunteers** – Cal Graber, nailed beams to build the Chapel in 1959 and a weekly volunteer; **Staff** – Carol Sprunger, cook during first summer of camps (1951); Ellie Solano, Food Service Director 2000 – present; **Campers** – Carter Steinmetz, Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, OH; and Katherine Columna, Southside Fellowship, Elkhart, IN; **Summer staff** – Matt Hartzler, 1998-2000; and Rae Ann Miller 2016-17; **Builders** – Jim Eicher, Chair of Builders' Association, Berne, IN; **Renew Friedenswald** – Richard and Marjorie Baum, long-time supporters, Mennonite Church of Normal, Bloomington, IL; Jonathan Fridley, Facilities Director 2011 – present; and Bob Schrock & Enos Yoder, DJ Construction

continued from front

Anita Rediger, pastor at Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship (Berne, IN), and board member, shared words of dedication. The following is an excerpt from the dedication.

In the dedication of these lively spaces we lay aside weather worn-beams for fresh fibers, for strong steel and crisp concrete. We release tired old walls from the weight of their burdens; replacing them with straight, sturdy timbers. Dim, clouded windows have opened way for bright clear panes – welcoming the passing clouds, the winging bird, the falling leaves. In the naming of these renewed spaces we will speak daily of the creatures with whom we share Camp – the cottonwoods, the cranes and the lake.

Today and for each day of the years to come we dedicate...

The newly crafted cabins of Dogwood, Elm, Juniper, Redbud, Sumac, and Walnut:

May every door open in welcome for each one who reaches its frame, may each threshold invite young and old into a safe space for rest, for fun, for fruitful fellowship, for enduring friendships. May the cool waters of Shavehead Lake offer a refreshing view at dawn and dark.

The beautifully restored Sandhill Lodge:

May its rooms offer respite for summer staff, retreat for solitary pilgrims, re-connection for re-unioning families. May the worship and conversation spoken there be filled with the wisdom of the Creator of the ancient and steadfast Sandhill Crane.

This heart of Camp Friedenswald, our "chapeling" Cottonwood Center:

Nestled in this cottonwood grove for 60 years, may its vaulting spaces continue to ring with the sounds of worship – the songs of celebration and words of new beginnings. May its fresh walls ring with laughter of retreats and tend tears of heartfelt leave-takings. May simmering crock-pots invite comfortable conversation in the light of the cross.

Amen! We praise your name, O God!

Thank you to each person who has generously given to help make Renew Friedenswald a reality. Over \$2 million has been pledged or given, representing 95% of our goal! Thank you!

While construction is complete, several projects remain to be done this fall including:

- New sea wall and dock at Main Beach (pending permits)
- Repair circle drive drainage issues
- Acoustic treatment in Cottonwood
- New windows in Staff Housing

These additional renovations and updates will only be possible with the support of you, Camp's Builders and friends. Thank you to those who have generously supported the projects so far, and to those who will contribute financially or with volunteer time to help us Renew Friedenswald!



From top to bottom: 2017 year-round staff; Exterior of the renewed Sandhill Lodge; Jo Sommer and Marjorie Baum enjoy Builders' Weekend; Exterior photos of the renovated Cottonwood Center; Interior of Cottonwood Center; Naomi Leary gives a tour of the new cabins to Nedra Engle and Carol Sprunger.

Staff Transitions

In August we said farewell to **Simeon Paulson** who has served the past two years at Camp Friedenswald. In his time, Simeon brought energy and growth to the Outdoor Education programming, and helped begin many new initiatives on Camp's property. Simeon's knowledge of Camp's land and the species that live here is unrivaled! We will miss Simeon and the Paulson family, and wish them well as they begin a new chapter in their lives.



We are excited to welcome **Amy Huser** as the new Sustainability & Outdoor Education Director. Camp Friedenswald has been a special place to Amy since her years as a camper and summer staff and we now look forward to welcoming her and her two young daughters, Eden and Willow, to camp life year-round. She brings fourteen years of teaching experience which focused on cultivating students' learning about nature, sustainability, and interdependence through art. In the last year, she completed a second master's degree in Resilient and Sustainable Communities from Green Mountain College in Vermont. She shared, "I'm so excited to bring my passions for sustainability, the environment, creativity, and connecting people to nature at Camp."



If you've been to Camp in the past nine years, chances are you've met **Pam Anglemeyer** as she's tended to a leaky faucet or running toilet, or as she's buzzed around on the green Gator. She joined staff in 2009 and has been an essential part of the staff ever since. Those who know Pam often reflect on her friendly smile, cheerful demeanor, "can-do" attitude, love for children, and that she is always up for a good time. Last fall Pam was diagnosed with stage IV uterine cancer. She continued to work at Camp, as able, even in the midst of chemo and radiation treatments, but recently decided it was time to end her work and continue on as a volunteer. As she often reminds us, Camp has been a special place for her. Even more so, Pam has been a special person to Friedenswald and to everyone who knows her. Please remember Pam in your prayers.



Where did the water go?

If you've been to Camp in the past year, chances are you've noticed that the water level of the wetland area you must cross to get to Main Camp has changed. At the recommendation of hydrology experts and scientists from Michigan State University, the water level has been lowered through a simple maneuvering allowing for a more natural flow of water through the area. In just one year, the results have been noticeable with a reduction in ponding of water, and a distinct stream (officially named "Mud Creek"), fed by fresh springs flowing through a sedge meadow. According to photographs dated pre-1930's, the flow of water through the area is more representative to how it would have been prior to development.

Additionally, removing impediments to the flow of water has reduced the flooding of the tamarack trees, and hopefully improved habitat for the federally endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly and massasauga rattlesnake, which are associated with groundwater fen wetlands.

Next time you're at Camp, be sure to stroll down the Fen Boardwalk and take a closer look.



We tried something new this summer: Summer Camp for Grown-ups!



Former campers, summer staff, and friends gathered for a weekend of experiencing the classic camp favorites. Whether we were playing board games late at night, singing camp songs by the campfire, swimming in the lake, playing greased watermelon, and borrow the balls, or just sharing memories and stories of years at camp, it was a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship! It was such a great time, we're doing it again.

Grown-ups of all stripes, mark your calendars for another great summer camp - August 17-19, 2018!

Jonella Yost, Sarah Diller, and Gregg Beitler relax at the beach during Summer Camp for Grown-ups


Job Opening

We are hiring a full-time **Facilities Assistant** to join our team. The ideal candidate will have skills in building maintenance, equipment operation, and land management. Eagerness to learn new skills, love of the outdoors, and a desire to create a hospitable environment for guests is a must. Benefits include free housing, utilities, meals, and an amazing work environment! For more information contact Jonathan@Friedenswald.org or apply online.

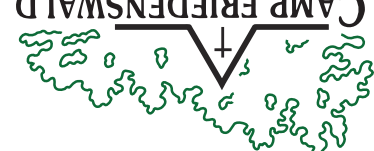
Update: Mitchell's satyr butterfly

This summer, **20** of the federally endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly were counted in Camp's west fen, which is down from 36 last year and 32 in 2015. During their visit in late June, scientists collected eggs from two females. From those eggs, three turned into larvae and have gone into chrysalis, and should be emerging as adults soon. If the adults are able to produce eggs, the eggs will be reared over the winter, with the plan of **releasing the new adults into the east fen at Camp Friedenswald in June 2018**. Mitchell's satyr are currently found in the west fen, and this project seeks to introduce them into the east fen.



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the peaceful woods
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