



“We have not gone anywhere... and I don't think any of us really realized how much we needed to get away. What a wonderful addition to your ministry in this challenging time!”
– Getaway camper

DO YOU NEED TO GETAWAY?

Join us in the peaceful woods this winter.

See [Friedenswald.org/camp-getaway](https://friedenswald.org/camp-getaway) for dates, details, and to inquire today!

The FRIEDENSWORD

Camp Friedenswald

Volume 28, Issue 2: December 2020

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

Everything is connected: a story of the Mitchell's satyr butterfly

by Amy Huser, sustainability & outdoor education director

Everything is connected. Experiencing connection is the heart of Camp's mission - with the goal of seeking to help all of us live in deeper connection with God, ourselves, others, and nature. Understanding the **interdependence of these connections** is more important than ever in these turbulent times.

Our hope is that those who visit Camp Friedenswald feel their deep interconnection to all that is around them. As a friend of Camp, you may already know the story of the Mitchell's satyr butterfly. The Mitchell's satyr is a federally endangered species and one of the world's rarest butterflies, found only in southern Michigan and northern Indiana. The prairie fens at Camp comprise one of the six sites in the world with a viable population of the butterfly. **The Mitchell's satyr serves as a symbol for the way acknowledging the importance of and caring for the most vulnerable among us improves the lives of all creatures (human and non-human!) in our community.**

As a result of taking special care for this vulnerable species, we've not only worked to preserve its unique prairie fen habitat but have also restored two rare ecosystems, prairie and oak savanna/ oak opening that are located adjacent to the fens at Camp. Both prairies and oak openings are officially labeled by the state of Michigan as critically imperiled communities, which means they are, "... especially vulnerable to extirpation in the state." (MNFI). Prior to European colonization, they were much more prevalent in this corner of Michigan.

Our prairie and oak savanna restoration projects, while not directly related to restoring and improving Mitchell's satyr habitat, were catalyzed by a desire to protect the area around the fens. Prairies, oak openings, and prairie fens can all help enhance the biodiversity and sustainability of each other. They are all connected.


The presence of the Mitchell's satyr in the prairie fens is a sign - a sign that the prairie fen community here is healthy. A high-quality fen means other creatures suited to live in this unique ecosystem can survive here as well - contributing to the biodiversity of Camp. High levels of biodiversity tell us that these ecosystems are hard at work, doing their part to maintain the natural balance all creatures - including humans - need for survival. Clean water and air, healthy soil, and a regulated climate - indeed the beauty and fullness of life on our planet - depend on healthy, biodiverse ecosystems.

The presence of the Mitchell's satyr, a small, somewhat fragile, and vulnerable species helps us to understand our interdependence with all of creation and realize that **our care for this special creature is one of the ways we can live out our love for the world.** In protecting the non-human creatures of Camp, we are caring for "the least of these" - and in so doing - also tending to the well-being of ourselves and each other. We are all interdependent. Everything is connected.

Resource: Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/list>

Photo: Restored prairie and oak savanna



Read and Recycle 

Return Service Requested

CAMP FRIEDENSWALD
the peaceful woods
15406 Watercress Way
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Staff transitions

Over the past six months we've said goodbye to several staff and beloved members of the Camp community. While we know that Camp Friedenswald is larger than any one of us, we acknowledge that each person plays a role in shaping this special place. Whether through a comforting meal in the Dining Hall, facilitating relationships with campers, or tending to the land and facilities - each staff, pictured below, contributed generously during their time at Camp Friedenswald. Thank you!



Ellie Solano, food service director (2000-2020)



Kevin & Naomi Leary, program coordinator & director (2014-2020)



Phil Nyce, facilities assistant (2018-2020)



We also remember **Pam Anglemyer**, former facilities assistant (2009-2017), who died September 4, 2020.



Morning light casts its glow on Turtle Hill

Year-round staff

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

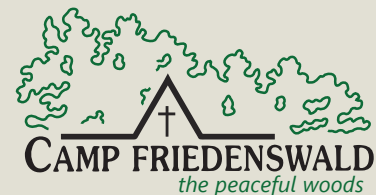
Board of Directors

Rick Buterbaugh - Chicago, IL
 Teresa Dutcher-Smith - Goshen, IN
 Todd Kirkton - Goshen, IN
 Jerry Nussbaum - Galen, OH
 Anita Rediger - Geneva, IN
 Deanna Risser, Goshen, IN
 Peter Suter - Bluffton, OH
 Matt Troyer - Goshen, IN
 Alita Yoder - Goshen, IN

Contact us:

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

Moving? Need to update your address? Please let us know!



Connecting with our world: A sit spot reflection

The number of school children who visited Camp Friedenswald this year were limited, but learning and growing in the peaceful woods continues to take place. The “camp kids” (children of year-round staff) gather daily in the Nature Center for school, which has been transformed into Friedenswald Elementary. Each morning following recess the kids aged two to ten settle into their chosen “sit spot” for a time of quiet reflection. **Their assignment? Use all of their senses to observe the world around them.** It’s an activity in which kids and adults of all ages can participate. You might try it at home in your own backyard or a local park.

The following is an excerpt from Eden Huser Company’s sit spot journal to inspire you.

September 3, 2020

*I sit down in my sit spot.
 The first thing that I notice is a delicate spider web with a leaf dangling from its threads.
 Geese honk above,
 their V-shape soaring across the pale blue sky.
 A gust of wind knocks yellow leaves off the trees.
 The spider in the web inches toward the leaf.
 Ivan cries.
 The cicadas buzz.
 A gnat hovers around me.
 Birds chirp.
 Crickets chirp.
 The air is cooler.
 A bug flies into my ear,
 but I shrug it out.
 The bell sounds.
 Time to go.*



Camp kids Willow Huser Company, Oliver Fridley, and Eden

Letter from the director

It was a year unlike any other in Camp Friedenswald’s 70 year history. Grass grew around Mosquito Hollow without dancing feet; the doors to the Dining Hall remained closed; no shoes were lost on the swamp hike.

But you’d be mistaken to believe that life didn’t persist in the peaceful woods!

Certainly there were less *people* here to witness the trees budding, wild flowers blooming, and leaves changing color, but the seasons and the natural world carried on bearing witness to the glory of God!

Yet while there were less humans around, they did eventually arrive. In late June, as we reopened after weeks of closure, and then throughout the summer months, families and individuals attended our two night “Camp Getaways.” And now, even as winter begins, people continue to find their way to Camp Friedenswald. They come seeking peace in the woods or by the water. They come seeking relationship with friends and loved ones around a fire. They come seeking respite from daily demands of life at home during a pandemic. They come seeking connection – with God, self, others and nature.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are all seeking *connection*. Hiking a trail, eating a meal lovingly prepared and delivered by another’s hands, listening to the sounds of the Sandhill cranes – these experiences foster and reminds us of the inseparable connection we have with all creation and with God.

As we continue to live into our mission in the midst of a pandemic, we are dependent on the camp community for support – now more than ever. I invite you to get involved today and to be part of the good that Camp Friedenswald seeks to put into this world. Please reference the “Ways to Give” column to see how you might participate in our important work of reconnecting with God, self, others and nature. Thank you!

Jenna Liechty Martin

Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director

Ways to GIVE

- Volunteer your time & skills.
- Share a one-time cash gift (online or check).
- Set up a recurring monthly donation (Friedenswald.org/donate).
- Give a gift of stock.
- Over 70½? Make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.
- Remember Camp Friedenswald in your Estate planning.

Contact Jenna@Friedenswald.org with any questions



Volunteers from Southside Fellowship give their time and effort to remove invasive cattail from the fen