

# The FRIEDENSWORD

Camp Friedenswald

Volume 29, Issue 1: May 2021

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

## Letter from the director

Sometime early into the pandemic, I entered a quiet, empty office at Camp to find a ceramic clock (given as a present one year for Christmas) had fallen off the wall, hands bent, lip chipped. Time had stopped. Not able to throw the broken clock away, I set it aside, perhaps wondering/hoping that it might fix itself...

When the time came to say goodbye to several of our beloved staff members last summer, I retrieved the chipped clock from underneath a growing stack of papers. It had one more important role to play. During our farewell ritual around a Mosquito Hollow fire, the clock shattered more – into a hundred tiny pieces. Each of us left the hollow that afternoon with one of them. My piece remains on my desk today...a reminder of the cracking that the past year has held for Camp, and most likely for all of us. And yet, it was in the midst of the cracks of the past year that support and possibility emerged. Here are the experiences that have filled my mind as I've reflected over the past year:

- Volunteers showing up at 7 a.m. on Saturday mornings to help deliver coffee to cabin porches, ready for guests to enjoy when they awoke.
- Endless wood splitting and stacking by volunteers, keeping sheds stocked and ready so campers could gather around small fires on a cold winter's night.
- Faithful Builders memorializing Camp Friedenswald as part of their estate planning (see page 4).
- Staff and board collectively learning more about the Indigenous People who lived and tended this land (see page 5) and committing to "land acknowledgment" as part of our life together.
- Imagining new ways of welcoming people to camp through the Getaway program.
- Weekly volunteers throughout the fall, helping "lop and daub" invasive plants from the wetlands and prairies, making space for new life and roots of native plants to take hold.
- The discernment of volunteers who helped us see a responsible path forward in resuming youth and family camps this summer.
- An increase of nearly 250% in giving to the Friedenswald Fund in 2020!

Camp continues to exist in large part from the ongoing support and commitment of its Builders. We can't thank you enough! At all times, but especially in a year full of cracks, we recognize that Camp could not exist without your faithful support. We honor the Builders with deep gratitude in this issue of *The Friedensword*.

As we look forward to summer, and a return to some semblance of "normal" camp life as we've known it for 70-years at Friedenswald, **we welcome your continued prayerful support** – for the summer staff team who will influence many young lives, the Camp health officer/nurses, pastors, and of course the campers. Our summer worship theme will explore our deepest longings – for belonging, peace, justice, community, and more – and help campers find ways of communicating their God-given longings with the Creator. Together, we'll explore various prayer practices and find ways of expressing the deep longings of our lives.

I hope to see many of you in the peaceful woods in the months ahead!

Jenna Liechty Martin, executive director

# 2020 by the numbers

By Amy Huser, sustainability & outdoor education director

While 2020 was a tough year in so many ways, we continued to work at goals related to our resilience and sustainability plan. From producing solar energy, to prepping black locust trees sourced from Camp property for a new playground, to purchasing our first electric vehicle – there is plenty to highlight! With Camp's commitment to an environmental, social, and financial triple-bottom-line, our choices about improvements or changes can be complex. Sometimes goals can compete with each other. It means so much to have a constituency who supports our careful consideration of the connections humans have with each other and the rest of creation in all of our operations at Friedenswald.

## 86,313

**Kilowatt hours**

86,313 kWh of solar energy produced by Camp's on-site and community solar panels combined (roughly 40% of our total electricity use), reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by 61.2 metric tons\*

\* According to the EPA's GHG equivalencies calculator.



## 100%

**Divested**

100% of Endowment Funds divested from fossil fuels (invested with the Mennonite Education Agency Investment Fund)

## 18

**Black locust trees**

18 black locust trees harvested onsite and debarked for a new playground

## 1

**Electric vehicle**

1 all-electric ATV Gator purchased (in memory of Pam Anglemeyer)

## 1

**Pivot Program**

1 successful new COVID pivot program developed – the Getaway

## 535

**Volunteer days**

535 days of volunteer time that kept Camp running

## 3,430

**Pounds recycled**

3430 pounds of single stream recyclables recycled, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by almost 5 metric tons



## 880

**People served**

880 people found retreat and renewal through the Camp Getaway retreats

## 15

**Butterflies**

15 Federally endangered Mitchell's satyr butterflies counted at Camp in July 2020

## 116

**Acres**

116 acres of land managed for invasive plant removal and ecological restoration



# CAMP FRIEDENSWALD BUILDERS

*The persons, churches, and organizations listed contributed as Builders to Camp Friedenswald from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. If you gave during this time and your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify Jenna Liechty Martin. Thank you for your faithful support!*

Anonymous  
John Alter & Sueann VonGunten  
Jan Althaus  
Randy & Kenda Amstutz  
Don Augspurger  
Rachel Augspurger  
J.O. & Elizabeth Augspurger  
Wendell Badertscher & Esther Nafziger  
Jim & Lois Bare  
Richard Baum  
Howard & Phyllis Baumgartner  
David & Tanya Baumgartner  
Thomas & Jeannette Bechtel  
Marie G Beechy  
Justin & Erin Beeker  
Ted & Gretta Beitler  
Gregg Beitler & Lavonne Shetler Beitler  
Justin Berg  
Hilary Bertsche  
John & Evelyn  
Dave & Evie Bertsche  
Allan & Marie Blunt  
Lesla Bradford  
Michael & Connie Brandt  
Tim Braun & Alysha Liljeqvist  
Henry & Sara Braun  
Andy & Elise Brubacher Kaethler  
Rich & Gloria Bucher  
Jeff & Patricia Buhr  
Richard Buterbaugh  
Justin & Karen Byers  
Jon Carver  
Virgil & Louise Claassen  
Stanley & Joenita Clemens  
Ashton Cluts  
Richard & Kathleen Collins  
John Courtney  
Jack & Katherine Delee  
Lu Derstine

Michael & Norma Devine  
Michael Dickens & Jeanne Liechty  
Kent & Teresa Dutchersmith  
Phil & Cindy Eicher  
Jim & Linda Eicher  
Kirk & Heather Eicher-Miller  
Mia Engle  
David & Suzanne Estvanko  
Roger & Mary Flueckiger  
John Fox & Mary Habegger Fox  
Eric & Kelly Frey Martin  
George & Barb Fridley  
Jonathan & Julie Fridley  
Jon & Janelle Friesen  
Savannah Friesen  
Billy Funk & Alita Yoder  
Barbra Gant  
Brian & Christine Gehman  
Ned Geiser & Marie Harnish  
Luke Geiser  
Robert & Julia Gerber  
John Gerber & Suella Lehman Gerber  
Marlin Gerber  
Daniel & Jan Gingerich  
William Goldberg & Lisa Schirch  
Peter & Mary Graber  
Jonathan & Phoebe Graber  
Joe & Jilaine Graber  
Cal & Sharon Graber  
Julia Graber & Raphael LaFrance  
Erik Grayvold & Angela Moore  
Caroline Greaser  
Alan Greaser & Jeannie Brunk  
Nate Gundy & Jessica Witmer  
John & Jan Gundy  
Arman & Sue Habegger  
Ronald & Ladonna Habegger  
Marge Habegger  
Gary & Carla Habegger  
Mike & Gwen Habegger

Elizabeth Hahne  
Kelly Hartzler  
Matt & Jen Hartzler  
Greg & Laura Hartzler  
Wilbur & Elizabeth Hershberger  
Mark Hershberger & Lauren Eash Hershberger  
Galen & Karen Hershberger  
Stefan & Karen Hershberger  
Hal Hess & Christine Schumacher  
Steve & Vicky Hill  
Rex & Angie Hochstedler  
Mark & Beth Hooley  
Jim & Sandi Hostetler  
Hans & Linda Houshower  
Steve & Mary Beth Huser  
Amy Huser  
Susie Huser  
Matthew & Julie Huser  
Steve & Jan Johnson  
Barry & Janeen Bertsche Johnson  
Terry & Lois Kaufmann-Hunsberger  
Vernon & Shirley King  
Robert King  
Titus King & Joy Kauffman King  
Todd & Alison Kirkton  
Tim & Sarah Koontz  
Ted Koontz & Gayle Gerber Koontz  
Doug & Joy Landis  
Greta Lapp Klassen  
Kevin & Naomi Leary  
Mary Grace Leatherman  
Scott & Greta Lehman  
Jim & Bertie Lehman  
George & Anita Lehman  
Mary Lehman Yoder  
Robert Liechty  
John & Joy Liechty

Nancy Liechty Loewen  
Douglas & Mary Liechty-Caskey  
Dorothy Loepp  
Doug & Paula Luginbill  
David Mark  
Arlene Mark  
Wesley Mark & Mary Harder  
Daryl & Karen Martin  
Peter & Jenna Liechty Martin  
Gerald & Carrie Mast  
Rodney & Carolyn McDaniel  
Tom & Susan Miller  
Imogene Miller  
Edward & Twila Miller  
Alena Miller  
Lynn & Linda Miller  
Brent Miller & Megan Stauffer-Miller  
Thomas & Sonya Miller  
Rae Ann Miller  
Darren Miller & Anna Ruth Hershberger  
Phil & Karen Miller Rush  
Mary Anne Moser  
Ruth Naylor  
Lewis Naylor & Belle Duerksen  
Randall & Marcia Nelson  
David Nester  
Kevin & Kendra Nickel  
Lydia Nolt  
Jerry & Virginia Nussbaum  
Phil & Maribeth Nyce  
Simeon & Rebekah Paulson  
Paul & Anita Pawelski  
Luke Penner & Rachel Yoder Penner  
Scott & Judy Preheim  
John & Jo Ann Preheim  
Martin & Anita Rediger  
Eric & Jennifer Reichenbach  
Douglas & Paulette Reichenbach



# CAMP FRIEDENSWALD BUILDERS

Brian & Heather Reichenbach  
Lamar Reichert  
John & Kay Reimer  
Denise Risser  
Deanna Risser  
Sally Roth  
Carol & Verne Schirch  
Kyle Schmidt  
Katie & Jonathon Schramm  
Joe & Mary Schrock  
Roger & Nathalie Schrock  
Tim & JP Schumacher  
Tom J & Joyce Schumacher  
Jane Sears  
Amy & Jeff Shadbolt  
Terry & Kay Sheets  
Karl & Michelle Shelly  
Alton & Elisabeth Shelly  
Art & Lisa Shelly  
Anne & Philip Shenk  
Josephine Sommer  
Jim & Kay Sommer  
Keith & Shirley Sommer  
Margaret & Phillip Sprunger  
Bruce & Suzanne Stauffer  
Amy Stauffer McNutt  
Todd & Lisa Liechty Steele  
Joel & Teri Steinmetz  
Jane Steinmetz  
James Stevenson  
Kent & Linda Stucky  
Jacob & Becca Stucky  
Greg & Beth Suderman  
Dave & Marlene Suter  
Pete & Kim Suter  
Fred & Marlene Suter  
Carolyn Tihen  
Matt & Lisa Troyer  
Donald & Beth Troyer  
Josh & Paige Troyer  
Gertrude Warkentin  
Dale Way & Chris Gerig Way  
Joshua Weaver & Julia Gingrich  
Jim & Jane Weaver

Rodney & Julie Weber  
Martha West  
Brian & Brenda Wiebe  
Dan & Kathleen Wilson  
Penny Yarman  
Kent & Gaye Yoder  
Enos Yoder

## CHURCHES & BUSINESSES

Assembly Mennonite Church  
Berkey Ave Mennonite Church  
Central District Conference  
Community Mennonite Church  
Eighth Street Mennonite Church  
Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship  
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  
Maplewood Mennonite Church  
Mennonite Church of Normal  
Moser Motor Sales  
North Danvers Mennonite Church  
Oak Grove Mennonite Church  
Poseidon Barge  
Prairieview Mennonite Church  
Salem Mennonite Church  
Shavehead Lake Association  
Silverwood Mennonite Church  
Sunnyside Mennonite Church

*Pictured front and back, left to right: Joy Liechty and Jan Johnson deliver meals to cabins; Bob King, SOOP volunteer, trimmed trees across Camp; Sandi Hostetler mowing; Allan Blunt, Camp photographer extraordinaire; and Dale Way, painting the "welcome" sign.*

## ESTATE GIFTS

In 2020 Camp Friedenswald was the recipient of two generous estate gifts. We remember the lives of these two couples and are grateful for their foresight and generous spirits that are reflected in their final gifts to Camp Friedenswald. Both gifts will support the Camp Friedenswald Endowment – a growing source of annual funding for furthering and deepening camp's mission.

We honor with gratitude...

**John & Evelyn Bertsche** (Normal, Illinois) were active in their home congregation of Mennonite Church of Normal and supportive of the ministries of the broader church, including Camp Friedenswald. The Bertsche's enjoyed many gatherings at Camp over the years with their Dyck-Suderman family, and their children and then grandchildren were active campers in their younger years. The Bertsche's believed in the importance of faith formation and in the role Camp can plan in nurturing the lives of young people. *Pictured left.*

**John & Mary Eicher** (Berne, Indiana) were lifelong supporters of Camp Friedenswald and members of First Mennonite Church. Having served for many years as the Chair of the Builders Association, John actively gave of his skills and energy towards furthering Camp's mission. From clearing brush, to tending to Camp's equipment needs, to leading the first swamp hikes, the rich legacy of the Eicher family carries on through their family and Moser Motor Ford.



## 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. See [Friedenswald.org/get-involved/](https://Friedenswald.org/get-involved/) to find out more!



# Land Acknowledgment at Camp Friedenswald

By Skye McKinnell, sustainability assistant

As spring blooms around us, bringing new life and colors to the landscape, we give thanks for the land that is Camp Friedenswald. We recognize the value of the natural spaces that make up Camp and are thankful for the opportunity to gather and retreat on such a beautiful landscape.

Over the past year and a half, we've been thinking about our connection to the land even more as we've taken on the process of creating a land acknowledgment statement to honor both the land and the people who stewarded it before us.

## What is a land acknowledgment?

One of the most common definitions comes from LSPIRG ([lspirg.org/knowtheland](http://lspirg.org/knowtheland)), "A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories."

## Why acknowledge the land?

Land acknowledgment statements are a common practice used by both Indigenous People and settler organizations to honor the land and the original inhabitants of the land and as a reminder of contested histories and continued injustices. The statement is a reminder to re-examine our own history as settlers and a commitment to continue the work of relationship building, re-educating, and taking action. We can continue to live out our mission and values of stewardship, nature, and community by committing to this process of land acknowledgment and all that comes after.

## How do we practice land acknowledgment?

Our process for creating a land acknowledgment statement began in the fall of 2019. One of the main resources we used to guide our process was the "Honor Native Lands Guide" developed by the US Department of Arts and Culture. The guide outlined three main steps for honoring the land with an acknowledgment statement: identify, articulate, and deliver.

**Identify:** The first step of land acknowledgment is doing your research to determine the original inhabitants of the land. It's important to answer three important questions: who was there, what happened to them, and where are they now. Although many different groups moved in and out of the Lake Michigan region over time, the Potawatomi (*Bodéwadmí*) are recognized

as the traditional inhabitants of this land at the time Europeans arrived. As more settlers arrived in the Michigan area, they began to push the Potawatomi and other Indigenous People out. The treaty of Chicago of 1821 ceded a portion of Southern Michigan to the US government and the Potawatomi were dispossessed of their traditional homelands. The 1833 Treaty of Chicago set the grounds for removal of the Potawatomi. The Potawatomi moved or were forcibly removed by the US military to different areas of the country including Kansas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Canada in the 1830s. The Pokagon band of the Potawatomi purchased land in Michigan and were allowed to stay here because of their Catholic faith.

**Articulate:** The next step is writing the statement using the history you've learned. There is no set script for land acknowledgment, but language is important to set the correct tone and be a useful educational tool. The language in our statement was chosen carefully with guidance from many Indigenous resources including the Potawatomi.

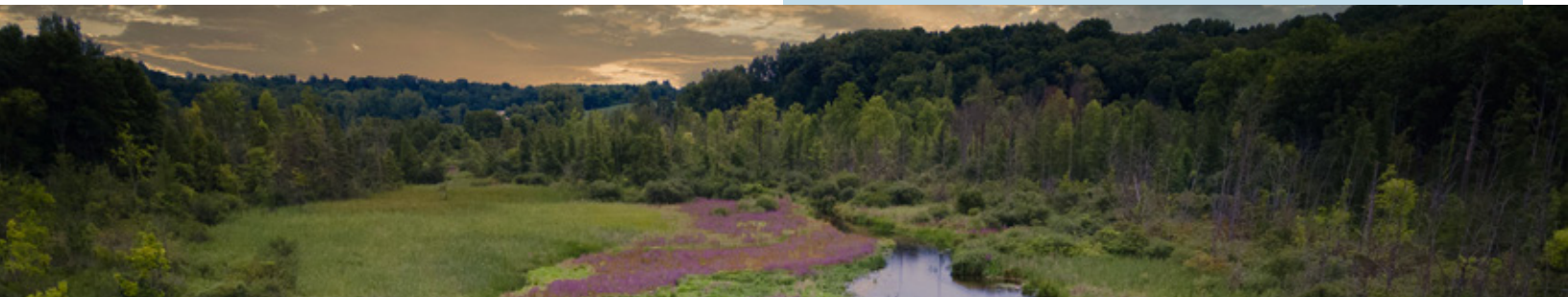
**Deliver:** The final step of a land acknowledgment statement is to deliver it. These words hold a lot of meaning, weight, and importance, so speaking them requires a relationship between the speaker, the land, and the statement itself. Speaking or printing the land acknowledgment is a grounding exercise to recommit ourselves to education, relationships, and action.

We are glad to be able to share our land acknowledgment with the Camp Friedenswald community.

*We acknowledge that we gather as Camp Friedenswald on traditional land of the Potawatomi People past, present, and future, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have tended it throughout the generations. We recognize and affirm the sovereignty of the Potawatomi and other indigenous nations.*

*Following treaties between 1821 and 1833, Potawatomi people were dispossessed of their indigenous homelands by the United States government and forcibly removed. Our neighbors, the Pokagon band of the Potawatomi, were allowed to stay and remain an important part of our community today.*

*Knowing our history does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work for a just and peaceful future.*



# Camp Friedenswald SUMMER 2021

GRADES 9-12

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

June 13-17

GRADES 3-4

PRE-JUNIOR CAMP

June 27- July 1

FAMILY CAMP I

July 12-16

GRADES 7-8

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

June 20-24

GRADES 5-6

JUNIOR CAMP

July 4-8

FAMILY CAMP II

July 19-23

find more  
info at:

[www.friedenswald.org/summer-camps/](http://www.friedenswald.org/summer-camps/)



## 2021 CALENDAR

May 14-16	Restoration Getaway
July 17-18	Builders Weekend
Sept 3-5	Camp Getaway Weekend
Sept 17-19	Women's Retreat
Sept 24-26	Camp Getaway Weekend
Oct 15-17	Camp Getaway Weekend
Nov 5-7	Camp Getaway Weekend

Visit [Friedenswald.org](http://Friedenswald.org) for more information on upcoming camps and retreats, COVID-19 updates, and to register.



pictured: summer staff, 2019

Read and Recycle



Return Service Requested

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