

# Outdoor Ministries News

Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren

December 2008



"OMA is committed to the educational ministry of the Church of the Brethren camps in partnership with congregations, districts, the denomination and ecumenical groups. OMA supports the total ministry of the church including Christian education, evangelism, peace education and stewardship of all resources."

\*Forms for 2009 Volunteer & Staff Award Nominations AND 2009 Environmental Grants are posted at [www.campbethelvirginia.org/2009OMastaff-vol-enviroPacket.pdf](http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/2009OMastaff-vol-enviroPacket.pdf)



## ***Around the Campfire... news bits from Brethren camps:***

**Camp Carmel's** (Southeastern) summer camp cabins got a facelift and new directors Wallace and Marty (Martha) Cole continue the camp's growth, (see story inside).

**Camp Myrtlewood** (Oregon/Wash) hosted the Nov 16-20, 2008 Director/Manager/Staff Retreat (story below).

**Shepherd's Spring OMC** (Mid-Atlantic) bid farewell to Nelson Bowman (story inside).

**Camp Blue Diamond** (Middle PA) hosted a combined Heritage Fair and District Conference in celebration of the Brethren's 300th Anniversary. The three day event featured an auction, food/craft booths, a Brethren Heritage Center, a hymn sing, a concert by Andy and Terry Murray, and district conference business and worship sessions. Over a thousand people attended the event, and \$35,000 was raised for Camp Blue Diamond and other central PA charities.

**Camp Swatara** (Atlantic NE) is embarking on the "Forward in Faith, Continuing the Story" campaign to raise monies for capital projects such as new cabins, new double sliding board for the pool, a splash park in the Family Camping Center campground, and upgrading electricity to the camp sites. The goal is \$500,000. Also, **Natasha Stern**, Program Coordinator at Swatara and new chair of the OMA, has announced her engagement to Bob Etzweiler from A Place Apart in Vermont. An October '09 wedding is planned at Camp Blue Diamond where they met.

**Camp Bethel** (Virgina) honored departing Program Director, **Susan Chapman** on Aug 31, and welcomed new Assistant Director, **Jenny Steinbach** ([www.campbethelvirginia.org/jenny.htm](http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/jenny.htm)) and new Food Services Director, **Ernst Meier** on Dec 1. Also, Susan announced her June 6, 2009 wedding plans (to Patrick Starkey) at Camp Bethel!

**Camp Ithiel** (Atlantic Southeast) holds 2nd Family Peace Camp (story inside).

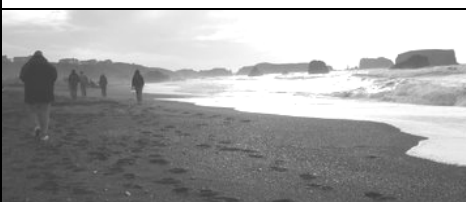
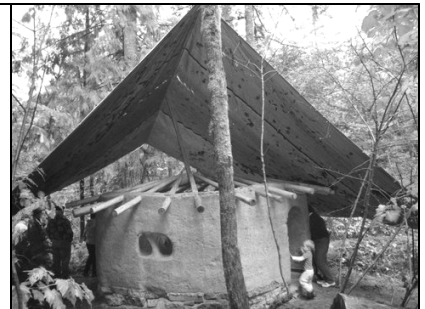
*YOU TOO can visit all our camps at <http://www.brethren.org/links/camps.htm>.*

*So what's going on around YOUR camp's campfire? Submit newsletter info to [camp\\_bethel@yahoo.com](mailto:camp_bethel@yahoo.com).*

### **Forty Gather at Camp Myrtlewood** *by Natasha Stern, [natashanstern@gmail.com](mailto:natashanstern@gmail.com)*

Forty directors, managers, volunteers and spouses gathered at Camp Myrtlewood in Southwest Oregon for the annual **OMA Directors and Managers Retreat**, November 16-20, 2008. The week was filled with sessions centering on Celtic Spirituality and its relations to outdoor ministry, walking and hiking around the camp property, off site trips to the beach and the Elk River and fellowship among the camp community. Glenn Mitchell supplied leadership for the sessions and John and Margaret Jones provided excellent hospitality as the host directors. Participants were given a great deal of information about the logging industry in Oregon as well as the effort to revive the rivers for salmon spawning. The time spent together was worthwhile and joyful!

The **2009 Directors and Managers Retreat** will be held November 15-19, 2009 at Woodland Altars in the Southern Ohio District. It is scheduled back to back with the **National OMA Conference** offered to the greater camp community on November 13-15, 2009, also at Woodland Altars.



## **2008 OMA Volunteer(s) of the Year Awards:** *(Presented at Annual Conference 2008)*

### **Norris & Gerry Martin of Camp Bethel:**

Camp Bethel is blessed to have hundreds of committed volunteers who give selflessly of their time and talents to enhance the camp's ministries. Out of this distinguished group of servants, Gerry and Norris Martin deserve special recognition. Simply stated, Gerry and Norris are present in service to Camp Bethel more than any other volunteers.

Gerry: The busiest building at Camp Bethel is the Ark Dining Hall, and when we need extra help Gerry is present. Autumn through spring Gerry regularly helps feed guest groups on weekends, and during summer camps she helps prepare daily meals for our on-site population of over 240 persons. Gerry provided crucial kitchen leadership during Ark staff transitions in 2002, 2007 and 2008. Gerry regularly helps prepare meals on Volunteer Work Days and for fund-raising banquets all year. Gerry and Norris have served as the Camp Representatives to Masons Cove Church of the Brethren for over 27 years. Luckily, with one present at camp we usually get the other since Gerry accompanies Norris when he is here working and vice-versa.

Norris: In the last 30 years, Norris has worked on almost every building, bridge, pipe and project at Camp Bethel. His love for camping ministry is expressed in stonework on buildings, walls and walkways, construction of several facilities, finishing and remodeling interiors, painting, roofing, woodwork, tree work and decades of firewood supply. Since its inception in 1984, Norris has almost single-handedly set up for our annual Heritage Festival. For years, Norris used his week of vacation from General Electric to volunteer at camp. Recently he served for six years as the Property Chairperson of our Outdoor Ministries Committee, the Outdoor Ministries Executive Committee, and the Camp Director Search Committee from 2001-2002.

Together, Gerry and Norris have continued their unprecedented service to Camp Bethel by adopting Pineview Cottage, providing weeks of volunteer labor and regularly serving as weekend guest-hosts. Amazingly, Gerry and Norris are our two most active volunteers, even at ages 77 and 79, respectively (in 2008). They can out-work each of us, and when you work a day with Gerry and Norris you know you have worked. Of their time, funds and their talents they give and give and give, never expecting recognition or reward. They serve because generosity is woven into the fabric of their being as willing servants of Jesus Christ.

We thank God for you, Gerry and Norris, for your commitment to Christ, your generosity and your servant leadership, enabling this camp to be a place of transformation for present and future generations. Following your example, we pledge a deeper, broader and higher commitment to our camp and its use in the development of relationships, the enhancement of discipleship and the work of Jesus Christ.

### **Clifton Smith of Shepherd's Spring:**

Clif has been an enthusiastic supporter of Shepherd's Spring Conference and Retreat Center in Sharpsburg, Maryland, since he moved into the local area 14 years ago. He has served faithfully as the treasurer and has worked diligently to help secure financing for the development of the property. He is an avid advocate for Shepherd's Spring programs throughout the District.

Clif is lovingly referred to as the straw boss by the mowing crew he directs. He participates and organizes their jobs, providing for the safety of the crew. He also has organized the annual golf tournament fund raiser for the last 12 years.

Clif's devotion to Shepherd's Spring has been apparent through his skills in money management. He has provided insight into bookkeeping tasks, keeps accounts accurately and keeps financial needs and financial progress of Shepherd's Spring in front of the District leadership.

Clif served many years as treasurer at Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren before retirement. At his present congregation in Hagerstown, Maryland, he has served on the Church Board, works with his Sunday School Class and has done many other jobs as well as being a District Conference Delegate.

When not working on bookkeeping or mowing, Clif can be found weeding flower beds, picking up sticks and debris or helping out in the kitchen. He does not hesitate to offer assistance to any of the staff in any area he can be of service. Clif is one of those "behind the scenes" persons who provides services for campers that they never realize. He makes sure the trails are safe and unobstructed. He supports the staff with his smile and his labors of love.

Clif: Congratulations on receiving this honor, and blessings to you.

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## **2008 OMA Staff of the Year Award: Lloyd Moyer of Camp Swatara**

Lloyd Moyer has served Camp Swatara near Bethel, Pennsylvania, as Building and Grounds Manager for the last 34 years. He has worked closely with the camp's Board of Trustees, and more specifically with the Property Committee, to care for the facilities and property that are a part of Camp Swatara's 700 acres.

Lloyd's expertise and talents lie in many areas. Among those are harvesting timber and overseeing timbering projects. He also prepares for and supervises many annual work groups. He is gifted in woodworking and has constructed many tables, cabinets, shelves, beds, and picnic tables used all around the camp. He also shares this talent with others, by donating homemade benches, shelves, bird houses, and tables that have been auctioned off at camp fund raisers and at the Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction in the Atlantic Northeast District. Lloyd's bird houses and bird feeders can be found scattered all over the Camp Swatara property.

As Building and Grounds Manager, Lloyd Moyer, has maintained camp's vehicles, overseen the work of seasonal maintenance staff, ordered supplies, and worked with scores of contractors, salespersons, and vendors.

Lloyd and his wife, Naomi, are active members of the Little Swatara Church of the Brethren where he has served in various capacities including service as a deacon and as an usher. He has also traveled with groups from his church to disaster relief projects. May God bless you both with many more years of dedicated ministry.

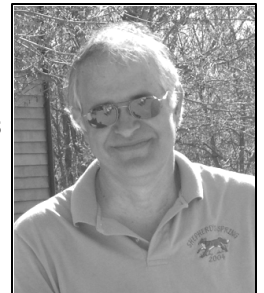
**CAMP PINE LAKE** at Eldora IA, is seeking a **Camp Manager** for the 2009 season. Camp Pine Lake is owned by the Northern Plains District of the Church of the Brethren. The Camp Manager would be responsible for scheduling camps throughout the year. The job also requires some maintenance, acquiring and supervising kitchen help, maintaining the grounds and general management. A job description is available on request. The position is a full time during the summer months running from May - September. During the off season it would be part time with minimal responsibilities. Salary would be paid over a 12 month period. The salary would be in the low \$20,000 range. The package includes a 2 bedroom house, utilities, camp vehicle, FICA, and employee insurance. Send application and resume to: **Cletus S. Miller 912 E 8th St., Tama IA 52339, (641) 484-3123, milhersh@iowatelecom.net.**

## **CAMP GALILEE SEEKS YEAR-ROUND CAMP CARETAKER**

Camp Galilee (West-Marva District) located in the beautiful mountains of Terra Alta, WV is currently seeking a Camp Caretaker. Camp Galilee is 110 acres including Lake Terra Alta, which it owns. You can learn more about the camp at <http://www.freewebs.com/westmarvaoutdoors/>. This is a year round position where the Caretaker and his/her family live on the campus on the Camp in the Caretaker's residence. The Caretaker is responsible for day to day maintenance around camp and oversight of the Lake Terra Alta dam. For an application and job description please contact Robby May, Vice Chair of the Camp Galilee Trustees, at (301)707-5471 or [rmay197@msn.com](mailto:rmay197@msn.com).

**NELSON BOWMAN ended 15 plus years of service to Shepherd's Spring** in the maintenance department on September 30, 2008. From tinkering with the golf cart, repairing everything from trails to toilets, maintaining the pool, air conditioning systems and dropping off or picking up campers in canoes and Elderhostelers on bicycles, Nelson has worn his smile through them all! He has also served as the summer camp coordinator, helped transition to a new accounting system, managed the hunting program and served with all three of Shepherd's Spring administrators. His will be big shoes to fill!

Thanks Nelson Bowman for many years of service as Shepherd's Spring Maintenance Director! We wish you well on your new endeavors with the City of Frederick.



## **Clay Sheets Receives 2008 Outdoor Ministries Association Lifetime Achievement Award**

Clay Sheets is the name that is known in the Southeastern District for being involved with the camping ministry. Clay unselfishly gave of his time and talents to help build and maintain Camp Carmel near Linville, North Carolina. He was active in planning, designing and building every structure on the property.

Clay started in 1952 when the first bushes were cut and helped welcome the very first campers. He worked with no pay until 1995 and at that time started to receive a small salary. When 60 inches of snow fell on the camp and the old lodge collapsed in the winter of 1960, Clay was there to rebuild. Before the cabins were built, he slept in the back of his truck in order to get to work by daybreak. For over 50 years, Clay has given of his time and talents to maintain the camp. All of these years he drove around 60 miles round trip to carry out his duties as the camp manager. In his later years he brought his camper to the camp to stay during the summer months along with his wife Georgia who also volunteered her time at the camp. Due to declining health he had to retire on December 31, 2007.

Clay and Georgia have been members of Mount Carmel Church of the Brethren for over 70 years. He served in many different positions over the years such as Sunday School teacher, board member and has always helped with church maintenance and support of the church.

We pray the best for Clay and Georgia in their retirement and may God continue to bless them both.

## SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT CAMP NEWS

### Camp Carmel

Our first exciting news is Wallace and Marty Cole have prayed and accepted the call to move from Interim Director of Outdoor Ministries to the permanent position, (read more below). Along with many volunteers they have accomplished a lot at Camp Carmel this past year. The campers enjoyed the new wooden bunk beds and mattresses in all the cabins, plus new paneling and metal roofs. The highlight of the camping season was the blessing of Wallace baptizing 12 people in the river there at camp.



The camp also had "Five Stones Ministry" renting the camp for four weeks as part of the camp's outreach ministry. This ministry brings children to camp whose parents are deployed in the service or who has lost a parent. The setting of Camp Carmel was a quiet place for the children to enjoy the beauty God has given us.



The camp will be closed during the winter season; this gives time for repairs and improvements and getting ready for next year's camping season. The goal for next season is to build an amphitheater for outdoor chapel service and activities.

**Wallace and Marty Cole** have been called as the new Directors of Outdoor Ministries at Camp Carmel, Linville, NC in the Southeastern District of the Church of the Brethren. Wallace serves as Pastor of the First Church of the Brethren in Mt. Airy, NC. He has been a plumber and Plumbing Inspector for the city of Winston-Salem until his retirement November 2007. Marty, his wife, is retired from the telephone company.



They started their new position January 1, 2008 with great vision and goals for Camp Carmel. One of their goals is complete with the building of new bunk beds for all the cabins. Neither Wallace nor Marty are stranger to the camping programs. Wallace has served on Camp Carmel Development Committee and Camp Cabin Leadership many times. Marty has served as Education Director, Secretary of the Camp Board, Summer Camp Manager and cooked for many camps. Their experience in the camping program will serve Camp Carmel well. Their passion is for children to find Christ at camp. We wish them well as they serve God and the camp. Wallace and Marty will be officially installed at the Southeastern District Conference.

### Camp Placid

Mike and Teresa had a full camping season this past year. The campers also enjoyed new wooden bunk beds. A few of the cabins have been winterized for campers wanting to use the camp all year. Each cabin's shower area was improved for the campers. This year seemed to be the year to have several weddings and receptions at the camp. The Disaster Relief Volunteers from north eastern states continue to stop at Placid for an overnight stay to and from the Gulf Coast. Since Mike and Teresa's two sons are in the Scouts, Camp Placid is now sponsoring a Scout troop, which a total of eighteen boys are now enjoying their scouting time at Placid. A part of the camp rental to organizations is for them to enjoy the Appalachia Caverns near the camp. This seems to be a growing off site interest for the campers as they enjoy God's beauty surrounding the cave, plus other activities such as Gem Mining and Rock Climbing.

Since Teresa is a school teacher, her and Mike have developed an Environmental Camp for schools for the weekends. This is really a growing interest with the schools near the camp. The upkeep and improving the camp facilities continues to take place with many volunteers.

## **From the Camp Myrtlewood 2007 Summer Workcamp, By Kay Guyer**

I have never felt more welcomed in a new place than at Camp Myrtlewood, Oregon. Hopping off a plane from Pennsylvania, I did not know exactly what to expect from Brethren on the other edge of the country. It turned out the only thing I was unprepared for was the vast and endless extension of greetings, caring, and humbleness that enveloped me wherever I went throughout the camp. I was taking an adventure of sorts on a Brethren workcamp that landed me right in the midst of a community which took me in as one of its own and taught me more in a week than I ever thought possible.

This cooperation between church camp and workcamp allowed me to encounter new people, new ideas, new surroundings, and a new way of living. I was able to learn about the challenges God's wonderful creation faces while working to lessen that stress. I served, yet I was given more in return. I spoke, but I heard so much more. Not only was the food beyond delicious, but the lessons I took from that week are still so vivid in my memory. I am so filled with gratitude for what both of these organizations provide for youth like me. Excitement ensues as I look forward to spending time both at my home camp of Camp Blue Diamond and on another workcamp in South Dakota!

## **Camp Ithiel (Atlantic Southeast District) holds a second Family Peace Camp**

by Phil Lersch, chair of Atlantic Southeast District's Action for Peace Team.

For the second consecutive year, the Action For Peace Team and Camp Ithiel of Atlantic Southeast District sponsored a Family Peace Camp over Labor Day weekend. The event was held at Camp Ithiel near Orlando, Fla. Jim and Kathy McGinnis, directors of the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis, led the multi-age campers in learning about "Family Peacemaking."

The activities led by Jim and Kathy McGinnis emphasized several features of their Family Pledge of Nonviolence, namely respect and peaceful problem-solving, listening and forgiving, being stewards of God's creation, playing creatively, acting courageously, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s challenge. Together they led interactive presentations that focused on techniques, concepts, and attitudes that are essential for peacemaking in the family and community.

The McGinnises founded the Institute for Peace and Justice in 1970, as an interfaith center promoting peace and justice through education, social action, and prayer. They are nationally known peace education consultants, authors, workshop presenters, family life resource leaders, and peace educators. They have received the 1995 Pax Christi USA "Teachers of Peace" award, and also are founders and international co-coordinators of the Parenting for Peace and Justice Network.

The 20 adults, 8 teenagers, and 4 young children who participated in the camp--representing ages 5 to 77--enjoyed and learned much from the McGinnises' hands-on experiences. The camp featured music, self-expressive activities, artwork, storytelling, group discussions, drama, and more. Other camping features knit the multi-age group into one large family--such as picture puzzles, games, a talent night, morning watch, contra dancing, campfire, swimming, Sunday worship, a nature walk, and a sing-a-long of hymns, camp songs, and folk tunes.

### **Camp Ithiel holds two new camps:**

1. **"Un-Winter Camp"**, Dec 12-14, in Miami: No snowflakes, lots of sunshine, learn how to build a snowman without snow.
2. **Girlfriends' Weekend**, April 3-5, at camp, for ladies of all ages. Get a manicure and hear God's word about the attributes of a truly beautiful woman. Take a workshop on belly dancing or learn how to crochet. More info on these at [www.campithiel.org](http://www.campithiel.org).

**Joan and Dave Turnbull**, year-round Ithiel volunteers, have retired to serve a new ministry, their daughter's family in Missouri. After a late Spring and all Summer visit to Missouri, they have decided to stay and serve in a new role. While winter may influence their decision, they do feel God's call to this new location.



## **A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP) Report** by Marlin Houff

Due to expense and other family obligations, for the first time in 10 years I was unable to attend the ACMNP Board Meeting at Yellowstone National Park September 12 - 15, 2008. This meeting saw the transition from outgoing executive director Rev. Richard Camp who retired and incoming executive director - Rev Spencer Lundgaard. It also marked the moving of the ACMNP national office from Freeport Maine to Denver Colorado. Even though I did not attend the board meeting, I did host a workshop on ACMNP at the National Young Adult Conference at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. One of the ACMNP staff that worked the last two summers in Rocky Mountain National Park spoke to those who attended the workshop. It was a good and constructive time. The workshop was well received by those in attendance. Former Camp Swatara board and staff member, **Jared Long**, continues to work with ACMNP at Grand Canyon National Park. He is also pastor of the Grand Canyon Community Church. He was able to have some professional growth time this summer that allowed him to attend the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Richmond, VA. It was good to see and talk to him there. Persons wanting more information about ACMNP should check out their website at [www.acmnp.com](http://www.acmnp.com). It is my plan to resume my attendance at the ACMNP board meeting in 2009.

## Facility Administration Manual FREE to OMA/CoB Camps by Rex Miller, rex@campmack.org

Sometimes there are resources that are developed that we miss that can provide a wealth of information for us as we operate our camps. One such resource is the **Outdoor Ministries Facility Administration Manual**. This manual in CD format was produced by the Committee on Outdoor Ministries of the National Council of Churches in 2004. This resource was designed to provide basic information for persons new in the industry as well as new information for those who have been in the industry for a while. There are four major areas covered with many topics under each of those areas. These four areas include Mission, Governance, Daily Operations and Long Range Planning.

The Outdoor Ministries Steering Committee has made a decision to provide a copy of this resource to each camp in the denomination who would like a copy. Each camp will receive a letter introducing the resource with an order form. The Outdoor Ministries Association will pay for this resource as a way to provide support to each of the camps in the denomination. This gift is being funded through the Four Horseman Endowment Fund that is designed to support leadership development in Outdoor Ministries. All you will need to do is take the action to order the resource. Don't miss this great opportunity! For direct information about the Manual, contact Rex Miller at **rex@campmack.org**.

### Getting to Know the OMA Steering Committee:

#### **MARGO ROYER-MILLER:**

Feeling deeply blessed by the call to serve on the OMA Steering Committee, I did my homework (bio-writing) on the plane, after my first meeting. Outdoor Ministries is a bug that bites and doesn't let go! Over the years it has molded and inspired, soaked and soiled me at Mardela as a camper, at Camp Mack as a volunteer counselor, and at Shepherd's Spring as a camper, volunteer counselor, summer staffer, caving instructor, conflict resolution leader and doer-of-anything-else.



After graduating from Manchester College in 2003 with a B.A. in Social Work and Spanish, I served for one year as Case Manager at Bridgeway Home for Pregnant Teens in Lakewood, CO, through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS).

Marriage followed BVS and led Dan and me into pursuit of a simple and service-oriented lifestyle, beginning with a 6-month internship at Sonnewald, Grave Lefever's farm, in Spring Grove, PA. We were captivated by organic and sustainable food-production, moving in early 2006 to Ecology Action in Willits, CA where we are completing our 3-year apprenticeship in GROW BIOINTENSIVE Sustainable Mini-Farming ([www.growbiointensive.org](http://www.growbiointensive.org)). We will step into interim Field Coordinator positions with Ecology Action for 2009.

Though I've been away from it for the past 5 years, camping has been formative for my faith and my lifestyle, teaching me to seek stewardship, play, and the Creator. It is an honor to be able to give back to camping in this role, representing camp volunteers on the OMA Steering Committee. Once in Outdoor Ministries, always in Outdoor Ministries!

#### **DEBBIE EISENBISE:**

In the spring of 2008, Debbie Eisenbise began serving as the pastor/theologian on the OMA board. She has served the Skyridge Church of the Brethren in Kalamazoo, Michigan for the last twelve years. Before that, she served in the development office at Bethany overseeing student recruitment, alumni/ae relations, and marketing. She has also worked in the denomination's general offices, serving as Coordinator of Orientation and Recruitment for Brethren Volunteer Service for four years.

Through her travels for work, and her many years serving as leadership for Song & Story Fest, she has visited most of our camps. This summer, she led bible studies and served as a counselor for youth camp at Michigan's Camp Brethren Heights.

Debbie lives in Kalamazoo with her husband Dennis Kreps, her daughter, Brooks, and their cat.

**WHY CAMP?** by Jerri Heiser Wenger, co-director of Camp Blue Diamond, bludia@penn.com

Camping has been an important part of my life for many years. I was raised by parents who appreciated an opportunity to spend time with my brothers, sister and I while sleeping in a camper, cooking over an open fire and dealing with trash-raiding raccoons. We were encouraged to play outdoors, explore nature, climb trees and spend nights in our backyard playhouse. Mom and Dad also sent us to church camp and listened to our stories, songs and experiences all the way home. I'm glad my parents gave me opportunities to spend time in nature and become connected with a camp community, for I am quite aware that it not only changed my life - it shaped my life.

What does camp really have to offer? I believe the list is too long for a single newsletter and it would certainly mean many different things to different people. However, we are privileged to watch what goes on at camp and to be a part of the experience with thousands of people every year who come for camp, retreats, outdoor school, picnics, or for employment & training.

Here are some of the observations I made about the camp experience:

**...it's a place to reconnect with God ... make friends ... spend time with family ... enjoy the silence ... make a lot of noise ... celebrate God as Creator... play ...live in the moment ... learn about God ... rest ... eat good food ... enjoy hospitality ...read my Bible ... no phones ... worship God ... pray with my eyes wide open ...share God's love with others ... be a part of something bigger than myself ...cut wood ... experience ministry ... be the person God created me to be ...explore gifts ... discover passions ... make music ...learn to canoe/swim ...serve others ... volunteer ... and laugh out loud ...**

What does camp mean to you? How have you been changed by camp? What impact have you had on the ministry of your camp? Please know that God continues to change lives through the ministry of church camp.

**Youth Peace Travel Team: Summer '08 Report** by Jerri Heiser Wenger, bludia@penn.com

This year's Youth Peace Travel Team was made up of two men and two women. They worked together closely, presented well-thought through and pertinent sessions, and served with integrity and enthusiasm.

(L to R): **Gabriel Dodd** - Bridgewater College recently transferred to another school, Communications/Peace Studies major. His home is in Farmington, Delaware and his home church is Bethany CoB. Gabe has a lot of camp experience and a great appreciation for scriptures and enjoys leading Bible study. He also has a passion for peace and justice issues.

**Melissa Grandson** - McPherson College, studying Elementary Education, Spanish and ESOL. Her home is Quinter, KS and she attends the Quinter CoB. She attended Camp Colorado and served as a junior counselor. She brought to the team a unique and personal understanding of diversity.

**John Michael Pickens** - Messiah College, majoring in Theology. His home is Mechanicsburg, PA where he attends the Mechanicsburg CoB. His faith has grown in recent years as he has experienced an inner peace that has helped him better live out his understanding of what it means to live at peace with others and with God.

**Samantha Carwile** - Manchester College student, Peace Studies/Sociology major. Samantha's home is Anderson, IN and she's a member of the Anderson CoB. Peace, justice and caring for environment are important to Samantha and she has been involved in a number of clubs and organizations at Manchester College that promote these values and convictions.



The team had a long summer beginning with Ministry Summer Service Orientation followed by a lot of travel, 8 camps and 2 conferences:

MSS Orientation, May 31-June 5; YPTT Orientation, June 5-7; Camp Pine Lake, June 8-14; Camp Bethel, June 15-21; Camp Ithiel, June 22-27; Camp Mack, June 29-July 4; Camp Blue Diamond, July 6-11; Annual Conference, July 12-16; Brethren Heights, July 20-26; Camp Emmaus, July 27- Aug 2, Peaceful Pines, Aug 3-9; Young Adult Conf.

The overall evaluation of the team conducted by leadership of the camps where they served was very high. The team effectively modeled Christ's call to be peacemakers as they assisted camps in their programming and led sessions on peace issues.

## 2009 Camp Curriculum, "Breakthrough" Available Now!



This year's summer camp curriculum "BREAKTHROUGH" from New Earth Resources is now out. This year's materials focus on the life of Jesus. Throughout his journeys Jesus pulled down walls of prejudice, offered release from bondage, and provided loving attention to the forgotten and healing to the sick. These encounters resulted in a breakthrough - a chance to move beyond the present situation into a life-changing experience. The stories that will be explored are:

- Jesus Welcomes: Mark 10:13-16: Hear about Jesus' welcoming for the children and explore ways to welcome others.
- Jesus Listens: Mark 10:46-52: Hear the story of Bartimaeus and explore the importance of listening to others.
- Jesus Shows Compassion: Luke 5:17-26: Hear the story of the paralyzed man and learn importance of compassion for others.
- Jesus Loves: Luke 10: 25-37: Hear the good Samaritan parable and explore risks & requirements of being a good neighbor.
- Jesus Transforms: Luke 13:10-17: Hear the story of the bent-over woman and consider ways to be agents of transformation.
- Jesus Invites: Luke 14:12-24: Hear the story of the great banquet and explore ways to extend the invitation to others beyond the camp community.

Added to this year's curriculum are new sections including "Training Staff to Use the Curriculum," "Bible Study Methods of Camps," an Resource List, and "adapting the Curriculum for other Settings. A sample of "BREAKTHROUGH" is at [www.nccusa.org/elmc/2009OutdoorMinistry.htm](http://www.nccusa.org/elmc/2009OutdoorMinistry.htm). To order, visit [www.brethrenpress.com](http://www.brethrenpress.com) or call 1-800-441-3712.

### Are YOU part of the Camp & Retreat Leaders' Network?

This e-mail network is organized by Kevin Witt, the camp/conference staff person for the United Methodist Church AND the Religiously Affiliated Camps coordinator for the American Camp Association. All denominations and camps may participate. To sign-up, visit <http://www.gbod.org/camping/> and find the link for the "Camp/Retreat Leader E-mail Network."

### Natasha Stern Succeeds Dean Wenger as OMA Chair

Natasha Stern, Program Coordinator at Camp Swatara, will become the new OMA Chair in 2009. She is succeeding Dean Wenger, Executive Co-Director at Camp Blue Diamond, who had led the OMA Steering Committee since 2005. The members of the Steering Committee thank Dean for his service during the past 3 ½ years. Dean's ability to keep a meeting moving, while allowing the flexibility to allow creative minds to wander, helped the committee accomplish its business in a timely and productive manner. On behalf of the Steering Committee, and the camps served by OMA, we thank Dean for his service, and look forward to Natasha's leadership.



## OMA Membership

If you would like to renew your membership now or if you would like to join for the very first time, please feel free to fill out the form below and mail it along with your dues to: **Outdoor Ministries Association, PO Box 229, Bethel, PA 19507**



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Levels for Individuals (Please Choose One)

Individual, \$30     Family, \$50     Annual Sustaining, \$120     Camp Professional, \$150     Lifetime, \$500

### Annual Membership for Camps (Maximum fee paid is \$500.00)

Camp Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /1000 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (your membership fee).

*NOTE: Remember that an annual camp membership includes one professional membership in OMA.*

**Make Checks Payable to Outdoor Ministries Association**

## YOUR OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE:



### Directors/Managers:

WENGER, Dean (Chair) (2) '08, PO Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669 (814) 667-2355, [bludia@penn.com](mailto:bludia@penn.com)  
PHILLIPS, Doug (Secretary), (2) '08, 5390 Armentrout Path, Keezletown, VA 22832, (540) 269-2741, [camp@brethrenwoods.org](mailto:camp@brethrenwoods.org)  
LENOIR, Barry, (2) '10, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090, (540) 992-2940, [camp.bethel@juno.com](mailto:camp.bethel@juno.com)

### Associate Staff:

STERN, Natasha (Chair-elect), (1) '08, 2905 Camp Swatara Rd, Bethel, PA 19507, (717) 933-8510, [nstern@campswatara.org](mailto:nstern@campswatara.org)

### Pastor/Theologian:

EISENBISE, Debbie, (1) '10, 394 S. Drake Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49009, (269) 375-3939, [eisenbised@aol.com](mailto:eisenbised@aol.com)

### District Executive:

ROUDEBUSH, Pete (appointed), 847 Cobblestone Place, Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 378-6027, [roudebushsd@earthlink.net](mailto:roudebushsd@earthlink.net)

### Volunteers: One open position.

GUYER, Wayne (2) '09, PO Box 75, 172 Main Street, Woodbury, PA 16695, (814) 766-2528, [guyer4@gmail.com](mailto:guyer4@gmail.com)  
ROYER-MILLER, Margo (1) '10, 16200 North Highway 101, Willets, CA 95490, (707) 456-9705  
[royermillers@yahoo.com](mailto:royermillers@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer: MILLER, Rex, PO Box 158, Milford, IN 46542-0158, (574) 658-4831, [rex@campmack.org](mailto:rex@campmack.org)

Send your ideas, questions and concerns to an OMA Steering Committee member for consideration and discussion by the Steering Committee. Next OMA Steering Committee Meeting is March 3-5, 2009 at Brethren Woods (Shenandoah), VA.

**Submissions for this biannual OMA Newsletter** can be sent for consideration to Barry LeNoir at [camp\\_bethel@yahoo.com](mailto:camp_bethel@yahoo.com). We always need more news bits for "Around the Campfire" and we would like to include news and photos from EVERY CoB camp.

## WANTED: All Outdoor Ministry Association (OMA) documents and photos:

OMA is establishing an archive collection to keep historical documents together, in a safe environment, and accessible for denominational use and research. Items needed: minutes of national conferences and Director/Manager retreats, environmental grant projects, Annual Conference insight sessions, OMA staff and volunteer award recipients, etc., originals or copies. OMA will organize materials collected, then will forward them to the Brethren Historical Library and Archives in Elgin, Illinois. Thank you for helping in this important endeavor. Please send archival items to OMA Board member, **Wayne Guyer, PO Box 75, 172 Main Street, Woodbury, PA 16695.**

### IMPORTANT DATES!

March 3-5, 2009: OMA Steering Committee meeting at Brethren Woods (Shenandoah VA).

November 13-25, 2009: OMA National Conference at Woodland Altars (Southern Ohio).

November 15-19, 2009: OMA Director/Manager/Staff Retreat at Woodland Altars (Southern Ohio).

**Due February 20, 2009:** Nomination forms for 2009 Staff & Volunteer Awards –AND– Environmental Grant Applications. \*Forms for 2009 Volunteer & Staff Award Nominations AND 2009 Environmental Grants are posted at [www.campbethelvirginia.org/2009OMASTAFF-VOL-ENVIROPACKET.PDF](http://www.campbethelvirginia.org/2009OMASTAFF-VOL-ENVIROPACKET.PDF)

## My Back Pages... Just for fun?

Having trouble with stereotypically messy, lazy, TV-watching, video-game-playing, young adult male counselors destroying the staff quarters each summer? Here's one director's idea: **Mocking them** with over-their-head poetry!



### Ode to a Messy Male Counselor

The time you spent upon this camp  
Has left your mark: our counseling-Champ;  
Man and boy cheered at your name:  
A fabled son of staff-house fame.

Today, the road all counselors roam,  
When summer ends and you head home  
We sing to you once more great praise  
For things you did these summer days.

Weekends were quite hard on you  
As points you scored on PS2.  
Developing needed skills to come  
Through video games and blistered thumb.

Smart lad to slip betimes away  
From work that might let muscles stay,  
And early though the summer ends  
The boob-tube is a lasting friend.

Now you will not swell the rout  
Of social strength and staff devout,  
And static sounds no worse than songs  
When closing worship runs too long.

Your gear, (exceeding your allotted space)  
Was spread from porch to fireplace.  
Food and dirt and socks and all  
Stuck fast to floor and door and wall.

Hire you back? We will, you louse,  
But ne'er again live in Staff House!  
And what will be your '09 rent?  
Hmmm... No electricity in a tent!

