



Winter Retreats Give Me the Shivers

The Luna moth perched on the window frame of the nature center. Green and yellow with spotted wings, nearly five inches across it was beautiful and in the wrong place for sure. Not three feet from where the moth perched stood a bird feeder. It was empty of birdseed, but I imagined that as birds fluttered to it to try their luck, it would serve as a beacon directing them straight to a Luna moth breakfast of champions.

So, I tried to move it. Instead of flying off when I gently lifted it from the window, it stayed in my hand. For a moment I thought it was dead. Then suddenly it began to quiver and shake. After a few brief moments, the moth suddenly rose from my hand and lifted silently through the trees and out of sight. Safe, at least for the moment.

I was intrigued by the experience and upon further research discovered that many insects drop their metabolism to nearly complete shutdown during the night to conserve energy. Upon being disturbed, or the coming of a new day, they will shiver and shake to raise their body temperature and then go on their way.

I think my spirit does a similar thing. At times when I am hectic, busy and preoccupied, it is easy to disregard or forget God's presence within myself and in others all around me. I shutdown in a

sense as I try to just get through the bustle of life.

This winter, however, I was disturbed. I was plucked from my "window sill" by over five hundred campers, volunteers and speakers who came to winter retreats at Friedenswald. I worshiped, laughed, ate and played with youth and families gathered together from many places, many backgrounds, and many churches. I entered into fellowship and as I did so my spirit shivered and shook and God's presence in me and in those around me took flight.

We had five exceptional weekends of winter retreat this year; five great speakers to support and challenge us, five different and unique groups of campers, five different topics to explore and discuss. Five exceptional weekends and one God moving amongst us all, awakening our spirits and shaking us up. Amen. Alleluia!
-Submitted by Colin Rusel, Program Director



Campers take part in an activity during a worship session for Senior High II

Walk the Walk: Peace Paths of the Old Testament

We live in a world where violence, fear, greed and injustice are ever present. We live in a world where, hope, joy and love are abundant. How do we as Christians, as Mennonites, as children of God make choices that spread justice, peace and hope in our families, schools, churches, neighborhoods and world?

This summer we will explore the paths at Camp with some of God's heroes of peace from Genesis, Exodus, 1st Samuel, 2nd Kings and Daniel. We will discover how Elisha, Abigail, Jacob, Esau, Shiphrah, Puah, Joseph, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and others took a stand; did God's work and spread God's love through acts of peace. Skits, stories, music, and scripture will all highlight the power of God's peace to heal, both in the time of the Old Testament and in each of our lives today. So pick a week, come to camp this summer, and join others in walking with God along paths of peace.

-Submitted by Colin Rusel, Program Director



Speakers Jenna Liechty (Left) and Anna Roeschley reflect with junior high youth after the completion of a rug woven by the campers. The artwork represents how all our faith stories interweave with God and each other

★ What are you Doing this Summer?

Are you looking for an exciting and invigorating way to spend your summer? Do you know someone who is?

Not sure what you're doing this summer?

Come join our **Summer Staff** for part or all of the summer and have fun and serve God in a camp setting!

- We run both Youth Camps and Family Camps.
- Staff must be 18 or older to counsel.
- For details call or email Colin at 269-476-9744 or colin@friedenswald.org.
- Check out our website: www.friedenswald.org.

Look under Service Opportunities and Summer Employment for applications and job descriptions.

From the Director's Desk....

While recruiting summer staff in Kansas in February, I had an interesting conversation with the librarian at Hesston College. She was helping me to log into the computer there and asked me what camp I was from. I mentioned Camp Friedenswald. She said, "Oh, I know about Camp Friedenswald. Do you know Barney Habegger?" It turns out that she had worked with Barney on the Commission on Home Ministries. Barney had shared his passion for Camp Friedenswald with her at their meetings.



Barney completes the tile work in the new White Pine cabin

For those of you that may not be aware, Barney Habegger passed away in early January. If you have been on the grounds at Camp Friedenswald, you have literally set foot on the fruits of his labor at Friedenswald. Barney (*along with a myriad of volunteers that he recruited to come along with him*) has put flooring/ceramic tile down at Friedenswald in the Lakeview, Dining Hall, Fenwood House, and most recently the new White Pine cabin (plus many more floor and construction projects). Barney truly inspired people to get excited about Camp and showed that there is more than one way to support the ministry here.

Camp Friedenswald has been blessed by the many thousands of hours logged by Barney and volunteers like him. The history of camp is defined by volunteers giving of their time and talents, along with sharing their excitement for the ministry of Christian camping.

I feel blessed as executive director to have had the opportunity to get to know Barney and Marge Habegger, as well as the hundreds of people that have spent time volunteering here. Our staff would like to say, "Thank You" to all of the current and past volunteers that have made the Peaceful Woods such a special place. Thank you, Barney, for sharing your faith in Christ through service and support.

- Submitted by Todd Kirkton, Executive Director

LODGE OPENINGS

LL-Lakeview Lodge
TL-Tamarack Lodge
SL-Sycamore Lodge

March 17-18	SL
March 24-26	TL, SL
March 31-April 2	SL
April 7-9	TL, SL
May 5-7	SL
May 12-14	LL, TL, SL
May 26-28	TL, SL
June 2-8	TL
June 7-11	LL
June 18-22	LL
July 31-Aug. 5	TL
Aug. 11-13	TL
Aug. 21-25	LL, TL
Aug. 23-25	SL



"Thank you! It was wonderful being here, a great break. We appreciate your hospitality. Blessings of peace—Shalom—on you, your families, staff, and camp program. May many be refreshed here as they discover God anew in worship, relationships, and nature."

- Comments from recent guests

New Cabin Project at Camp Friedenswald

"I love your camp, but the bathhouses are gross." "The one thing I'd change is that the bathhouses are always damp." "I'll sleep on the floor in a lodge before going outside to use the restroom at night!"

Comments and feedback like these from several years of evaluation, led to the recommendation of the bathhouse renovation committee to replace the girls' side bathhouse with new cabins. The new cabins will have a restroom inside, with a shower, stool, and 2 sinks. In addition, these cabins will be constructed with a high-efficiency furnace, tankless on-demand water heater, six-inch insulated walls, and handicap-accessible restrooms. The new cabins will be connected to the local municipal sewer coming to Lake Shavehead.



A prototype has been constructed and in use since the summer of 2005. We have collected feedback and are making a few modifications. The Master Plan tentatively has construction scheduled for 5 more cabins during 2007. Currently, we are talking with family groups interested in sponsoring cabins. We will be having some meetings with constituents to complete the pledge process (current funding is in line for 2.5 cabins). A challenge gift has been secured and to sponsor a cabin costs \$25,000. All donors and volunteers will be acknowledged on a plaque in the cabin. Please consider making a gift toward the project. You can contact Todd Kirkton for more information (todd@friedenswald.org).



Visit our web page to view aerial photos of Camp taken in the fall of 2005: www.friedenswald.org

Wetland Grant Received

Anyone who has been to Friedenswald is likely to realize that God's majesty is well documented in the diverse animals, plants and habitats that make up camp's natural areas. It seems that the more that the natural habitats of camp are explored the more species are found. One of the most exciting finds happened on an "expedition" just last summer.

Doug Landis, who is an entomology professor at Michigan State University and member of Camp's Natural Resources Task Force, helped spearhead an effort to see if there were any federally endangered or threatened species located on Camp's property. Doug began this effort to make connections with organizations and possible funds that might be available to help Camp maintain its natural areas.

So, Doug and I put on our boots and headed for camp's wetland bog, which is specifically called a fen. Within the first 20 minutes an endangered species was potentially identified. Pictures were taken and later they were verified by experts. What wonderful news! The federally endangered species that was identified is currently only located in a few small habitats in the **whole world** and one is right here at Friedenswald! You may be thinking, "Ok, when is Brad going to identify the species that was found?" Well, I'm not. Keeping the species a "secret" is intentional, because one of the reasons for the decline of this species has been poaching by individuals seeking to include it in their collections. So for the safety of the species it will remain anonymous.

We were then in contact with the Department of Natural Resources and their Landowners Incentive Program (L.I.P.), which gives technical and financial support (grants) to private landowners to help maintain important and fragile habitats. About a month ago L.I.P. awarded camp a \$500 grant to help us maintain our fen so that it continues to be a suitable habitat for the endangered species that calls it home. One area where we will use the money is to help keep the fen "open" from invading plants. Over time without some attention of camp stewards, our fen will become invaded by shrubs and non-native plant species that will begin to block out needed sunlight and further threaten our endangered species and other native plants and animals.

Camp is very excited about this news and also the opportunity to connect with other organizations working to be good stewards of this wonderful creation.

So on your next trip to camp, don't forget to spend some time doing some exploration of your own. You'll never know what exciting things you might find!

- Submitted by Brad Cogdell, Outdoor Learning Director



Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

- John Muir

Work Day, April 22

Please join us for our spring work day on Saturday, April 22. We will have a wide variety of tasks for folks of any age, such as painting, trail maintenance, bog jog platforms, installing fencing, spring cleaning, stump removal prep work, landscaping, cutting wood and much more!

Why not ask your Sunday School class or small group to join you? Come for the day or the weekend. Lodging and meals will be provided.

Please call the camp and ask for Portia and let us know of your plans to attend. Hope to see you here!



Do you know that each lodge now has a new table for playing games? Thanks to Paul Dyck for sharing his woodworking talents with us!



Youth and volunteers display their finished rainbow bread at Junior High II



Ken Hawkey interviews a character in the Bible story being acted out by campers during Senior High I

Permanent Staff Members

Todd Kirkton.....Executive Director
Colin Rusel.....Program Director
Portia Amstutz.....Operations Mgr
Brad Cogdell.....Outdoor Learning Director
Deb Smith.....Registrar/Bookkeeper
Pete Amstutz.....Maintenance Director
Jeremy Braun.....Maintenance Asst.
Ellie Solano.....Food Service Director
Vicky Solano.....Housekeeper
Simeon Paulson.....Voluntary Service
Matt & Deb Hickman.....Guest Hosts
Dave and Marlene Suter.....Volunteers

Board Members

Kent Yoder (Chair)	Kate Gundy
Alison King	Scott Preheim
Jim Eicher	Stephanie Company
John Fox	Steve Stenger

Need to contact us?

Phone: 269-476-9744 Email: info@friedenswald.org
Fax: 269-476-9745 Web: www.friedenswald.org

❖ Design and layout by Portia Amstutz , Edited by Todd Kirkton

Wish List

- ✚ Beach Umbrellas
- ✚ Quilts/Comforters
- ✚ Kitchen Utility Cart
- ✚ Tents
- ✚ Oriole Bird Feeders
- ✚ Woven Rugs for Cabins
- ✚ Picture Frames with Glass to Hang on Wall
- ✚ Bird Seed or Suet
- ✚ Arts and Crafts Supplies: candle wax, used candles, beads of any type, bright crochet string, hemp, bright ceramic tiles (can be broken), scissors, old blenders for papermaking
- ✚ Outdoor Learning Supplies: magnifying glasses, corn cobs, microscopes, hand or fish nets, baby food jars

Volunteer Needs

- ✚ Spring Cleaners for Buildings (April/May)
- ✚ Landscape Maintenance Help (April/May)
- ✚ Dishroom Helpers (summer)
- ✚ Food Service Assistants (summer)
- ✚ Childcare (summer)

Come for a day, a week, or more! Give Portia a call!

Camp Friedenswald seeks to provide people of all ages the opportunity to gain a better understanding and love for God/Christ, self, others, and nature.

Return Service Requested

15406 Watercross Dr.
Cassopolis, MI 49031-9532

