



Outdoor Ministries News

Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren
 Editor: Dean Wenger
 Fall 2014

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OMA National Retreat at Camp Koinonia:

Camps offer a unique space in the church or world: a community across all kinds of social and age boundaries, a sanctuary of direct encounter with God's creation, a place for people to be themselves and find healing and acceptance, a circle for open discussions about Jesus and the journey.

OMA is pleased to announce that David Radcliff will provide leadership for this year's OMA National Retreat. This year's event will be Nov. 16th – 20th at Camp Koinonia near Cle Elum, WA. David is the Director of The New Community Project, which "promotes peace through justice, care for creation and experiential learning." In addition to David's sessions, Retreat plans include an interactive session with a representative of the Wilderness Awareness School, a fieldtrip to Leavenworth, a local 'Bavarian Community', dogsled rides (weather permitting),

a movie night, a Retirement Party Extravaganza for Rex Miller and plenty of time for relaxation and camp talk. Already nearly forty have registered! Don't miss this opportunity to learn, rejuvenate, recreate and reconnect with friends old and new. Registrations forms at www.oma-cob.org.



Rex's Retirement Party!



Upcoming CoB & OMA Events:	Date:	Place:
OMA National Retreat – 2014	Nov. 16-20, 2014	Camp Koinonia, WA
OMA Steering Committee Mtg.	Feb. 23-26, 2015	Inspiration Hills, OH
National Young Adult Retreat	May 22-24, 2015	Camp Swatara, PA
National Jr. High Conference	June 19-21, 2015	Elizabethtown College
Annual Conference	July 11-15, 2015	Tampa Bay, FL

Campfire Moments

- Chief Gieta Gresh

The Israelites were being held as slaves. Moses (aka the Hero of the story) comes along and bands the people together to escape during the night. Pharaoh (aka Egyptian President) didn't want them to get away and sent his army to track them down. All of a sudden they realized that they were approaching the Red Sea. What happened next is almost unbelievable, as the popular rewrite to the **Louie Louie** Song states:

***Me and my people goin' to the Red Sea,
Pharaoh's army's comin' after me.
I raised my rod, stuck it in the sand
All God's people walked across the dry land.***

The Egyptians were hot on their heels. The Israelites would have been scared, but there was no time for that:

***Pharaoh's army was a comin' too.
So what do you think that I did do?
Well, I raised my rod and I cleared my throat,
All of Pharaoh's army did the dead man's float.***

This brings us to where Exodus 15 picks up the story, as we look at Exodus 15:1-21 we find the Israelites have crossed the Red Sea to the Eastern Shore. God had just brought them safely from the clutches of the enemy, the Egyptians. It was likely that the people would still be in a bit of shock when Moses gathered the group together and began to lead them in a song. The people must have been singing a song of thanks from the bottoms of their hearts. Not only had they escaped from the Egyptian army, but they were free. Remember, Pharaoh had held the Israelites as slaves. They had survived years of slavery and now they were headed to their new home. Their song was one of praise and thanksgiving to the one who had rescued them and this is why they mention the Lord forty-five times in just twenty-one verses.

So, there they stood on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. Any good vocalist needs a backup band; Moses was no different. Miriam and her girlfriends would probably have some name today like Lady Miriam and the Mirettes. The girls broke out the instruments (aka drums, guitar and tambourine) and joined in. It was easy for the Israelites to sing as they gathered on the beach that day. They had experienced the power of the living God. When we gather around the campfire, God feels real to us, too.

As the Israelites began to travel to the Promised Land, things became hard. They were hot, hungry and tired. It was easy to forget how it felt when they stood by the Red Sea. They began to lose sight of the hope that they had in the Promised Land. They may have forgotten about their God who was "Mighty to Save".

When summer camp ends campers and even staff are faced with hard times. School, peer pressure and stress can get us down and it can be easy to forget about the campfire songs we sing at camp and our "Awesome God." We could forget about the "Mighty God We Serve" or the fact the "Our God Reigns". We can lose sight of the promises that God has given us. The Israelites soon learned that the same God was there during the difficult times. Even when there was no band and no campfire, God was. My prayer for you is that you will experience those campfire moments all year round.



7 Things Camp Volunteers Can Do During the “Off” Season – Jan Hurst

Many camps are fortunate to have winterized facilities and offer program all year 'round. Their needs for volunteers don't run only during the summer months when campers are there. Volunteers can support all sorts of activities and events at year-round camps, from a Fall Festival, to Christmas Cookie Exchange, to a New Year's Eve Party, and to Spring Fling.

Some of our smaller camps hibernate over the winter, dreaming of happy campers who will come next summer. Even if your camp closes during this “off” season, you can still do several things to strengthen its program. After considering your skills and interests, try some of these ideas:

1. If you had the opportunity to counsel or direct a camp session, write a cheery note to your campers, recalling fun times and inviting them back for another great week of camp next summer. Youth probably would appreciate e-mail, but younger campers love “snail” mail!
2. Write something for your camp's newsletter (and your congregation's newsletter, too): If you attended an awesome camp event, jot down your memories of the good time you had and send it in (with photos!) to be published. That may encourage others to attend or volunteer.
3. If you enjoy woodworking, you could make a few bluebird houses, or even better, create birdhouse kits for campers to assemble during their craft time next summer.
4. Make some recreation equipment: If your camp doesn't have them, make a beanbag toss game, a set of Lummi Sticks (see this YouTube video for a demonstration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMGMK02x5n4), an oversized set of tic-tac-toe out of log slices, or a couple of pairs of stilts.
5. If paper is your medium, you can make an oversized set of Dutch Blitz cards (laminated for durability), using animal pictures. Here's a resource for the rules: www.dutchblitz.com/rules.htm. Played on the floor, it's a great group action game for a rainy camp day!
6. If you like telling stories, learn one to dramatically share at campfire next summer.
7. When the weather turns cold and you want to curl up with a book, read *Kum Ba Yah*, by Linda Logan, a history of camping in the Church of the Brethren. This book is free with your lifetime membership in OMA!

The present and former Directors of **Inspiration Hills**, Northern Ohio District, posed together at the camp's 2014 Fall Festival. Pictured are Bob Patalano, present director Shannon Kahler and Art Fourman, with wife Carolyn. They are standing in front of the fireplace of the recently renovated Cherry Lodge.





POWER UP! Living in the Spirit

- Jerri Heiser Wenger

Power Up! Living in the Spirit is the resource developed by InsideOut Christian Resources for Outdoor Ministry for the 2015 Summer Camp season. The InsideOut camp resource has a four-year sequence that zeroes in on clear teaching objectives. The rotation ensures returning campers will explore the fullness of God, who they are created to be, and what they are called to do. This resource rotation started in 2013 and has concentrated on: God (All Things New), Jesus (Get Real), Holy Spirit (Power Up), and coming in 2016, The Church (Courageous Faith).

Through the *Power Up! Living in the Spirit* material, campers will experience Christian community and discover the Holy Spirit as its source. They will have opportunity to claim the gift of a new spirit within, and to bear fruit as they 'live in the Spirit' in their own lives. Through experiencing scripture, campers will realize that

they are never alone, for Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit is always present and all are invited to live with grace and forgiveness, unity and courage, joy and peace, as we are powered up by the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures, objectives and symbols highlighted in the *Power Up!* resource are:

1. *Power Up with the Promise of Peace* John 14:25-27



Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Are you ready to receive it?

Campers will be welcomed with the promise of the Holy Spirit, learn about the Holy Spirit as an advocate, companion, comforter, teacher and helper.

2. *Power Up and Celebrate the Spirit* Acts 2:1-18, 22-24, 33, Acts 2:1-6



The Holy Spirit fills the disciples and empowers them to share the good news in many languages, and people are empowered to come together and understand.

Campers will celebrate the promise fulfilled, and recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit is available for all.

3. *Power Up to Imitate Christ* 1 Thess. 1:4-7



We look to the example of Jesus, and others, to learn how to live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Campers will explore the example of a church in Paul's time and realize their role as an example.

4. *Power Up with the Fruit of the Spirit* Gal. 5:16-26



Living by the Spirit produces good fruit, which affects the entire community in a positive way.

Campers will recognize they have choices about how to live, and that they can claim the positive results of living by the Spirit.

5. *Power Up as One Community* Eph. 4:1-6



Living in the way of the Spirit brings unity and creates community.

Campers will understand the Holy Spirit as the source of unity and common purpose within a community – even when that community is diverse.

6. *Power Up with Courage* 2 Tim. 1:6-7, 13-14



Through the Holy Spirit we have a spirit of power, love, & self-discipline – not of cowardice or timidity.

Campers will recognize the gift of a new spirit within and know their role is to: hold to sound teaching, be brave enough to stand up and make a difference, and be assured of the Holy Spirit's presence.

7. *Power Up for Peace Wherever you Go* John 20:19-23



Receiving the Holy Spirit overcomes fears, and empowers us for living the way of peace & forgiveness.

Campers will recognize that Jesus is commissioning them to continue his work. They will feel assurance they are not alone, and will feel empowered to encounter the world, their families, friends and communities with grace and forgiveness. They will remember camp with joy and peace.

Rex Miller and Jerri Heiser Wenger will be available at the OMA Retreat to share more info!

Around the Campfire: Tidbits from Our OMA Camps



On Grandfather Mountain the group gathered for bible study. Atop Wiseman's View they gathered for vespers. At the base Upper Creek Falls they slid in a natural water slide. On Whitetop Mountain the group mounted bicycles for a 17 mile downhill ride. Fifty-five campers from six camps enjoyed the beauty of God's creation and the hospitality of **Camp Carmel (NC)** as part of the Brethren United Mountain

Adventure Camp. Good fun, songs, food and campers from **Carmel, Harmony (PA), Bethel (VA), Brethren Woods (VA), Ithiel (FL) and Inspiration Hills (OH)** made for a memorable time. Next year the camp will be July 27-31.

Thanks to parents and campers \$1041 was raised for *Embracing Hope Ethiopia*, the summer camp offering project at **Camp Blue Diamond (PA)**. *Embracing Hope Ethiopia* provides daycare and clean clothes for children from 60+ families in the slums of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. The charity also finds meaningful work for the children's mothers, and is hoping to open a second center.

Twenty-four Middle PA District Churches and many families have raised \$57,000 to replace eight roofs at **Camp Blue Diamond**. In 2013 and 2014 the roofs of the Lodge, a picnic pavilion, the Ouch House, Hemlock Cabin and the Dip (washhouse) have been replaced. It is CBD's hope to replace the Nature Center, the office and the Directors' House roofs in 2015.

Camp Blue Diamond's Senior Adult Day speaker Peggy Reiff Miller shared her research of the "Seagoing Cowboys" and Heifer International. The best part of the day was hearing from two Seagoing Cowboys in Middle PA District: Wayne (Mose) Miller and John (Jack) Baker.



Thanks to the funding and building efforts of the Oschel family in Western Plains District, a new picnic pavilion has been added to the facilities at **Camp Mt. Hermon (KS)**. Complete with concrete floor and new picnic tables, the pavilion hosted Camp Mt. Hermon's 70th Anniversary celebration at Family Camp, Sept. 26-28. Eighty-one folks of all ages participated in the activities, including an auction that raised \$3,065.

"They wouldn't approve my project, is there something I can do at your camp?" Asked the young Boy Scout mid-summer. Once he explained that his lakefront improvement idea was rejected due to location the solution was simple, relocate his project to the shores of **Camp Ithiel's** Lake Fischer. Thus began another Eagle Scout Service Project, now over 20, at **Camp Ithiel (FL)**. A long section of the lakeshore was attacked with invasive plants removed, monopolizing plants curtailed, and native wetland plants installed.



It was another busy season at **Camp Swatara (PA)** with hundreds of campers enjoying a variety of great summer camp activities at the foot of the Blue Mountain. This fall Swatara is beginning a three year Capital Fund Campaign. The "Building Bridges" campaign will fund three major projects that will include replacing the 65 year old camp bridge and resurfacing all hardtop roads on site as well as renovating and remodeling the 60+ year old West Lodge and the 40+ year old West Retreat buildings. The bridge replacement project will take a total of five days and begins on Nov. 10th. Campaign information including a live web stream and pictures of the bridge work will be available at bridges.campswatara.org.

Camp Mardela (MD) has completed construction of a new maintenance facility. Current projects include replacing the roof on the main bath house and the nurse's station. The nurse's station is named House of Esther after Mardela's first administrator, Esther Crouse. Awesome achievements for the summer staff at **Camp Mardela**, all of this occurred in one week!: Sara Urry accepted a position as a full time music teacher (graduate Bridgewater College), LeRae Wilson became a licensed R.N. (graduate Pensacola Christian College) and Mycal Gresh was accepted as a student at Bethany Seminary (Graduate Chatham University).



Camp Harmony (PA) has partnered with Samaritan's Purse as a Relay Center for their Operation Christmas Child Campaign. 2013 was our first year and 1,137 boxes were delivered to camp where 30 volunteers helped to process them. Then we took the shoe boxes to another center to be delivered to North Carolina and from there they were distributed all over the world. We are again looking forward to the collection week in November and the many volunteers and boxes passing through our gates during that time. We pray that God will touch the hearts of the millions of children who will receive a shoebox.



Camp Pine Lake (IA) is very excited to share that we are on the verge of having completed the installation and anticipate the activation of our new photovoltaic solar panels. The new solar panels will replace approximately 75-80% of our annual electricity use. In other newness, we are also excited to be hosting a Junior High Work Camp next summer.

What a summer was had at **Camp Carmel (NC)** - plenty of action and mountaintop experiences. We started out with the COBBers (Church of the Brethren Bikers) weekend. We then had four weeks of Brethren camps which provided numerous opportunities to grow in the grace and love of Jesus. Our next adventure was a Junior High Brethren Work Camp at Crossnore Home for

children and youth. It was a great time of sharing and interacting as they worked and played. Campers from six camps attended the Brethren United Mountain Adventure camp. We always enjoyed our time with folks from other districts as we continue the work of Jesus together. Young at Heart camp, for those who have officially “aged” out of traditional camp, was such a blessing. Old friendships were strengthened as we worshipped God (and played and ate) together.

Camp Bethel’s (VA) summer’s camps served 979 campers during 8 camp weeks in 75 program choices. On Sept. 2, **Jenna Stacy** began a one-year volunteer resident "Camp Management" internship at Camp Bethel which includes serving as one of Camp Bethel’s three 2015 Summer Program Coordinators. On October 4, Camp Bethel’s 30th annual Brethren Heritage Day Festival hosted a record 2,050 guests and raised a record \$35,000 (thus far) for the camp. April 17-18, 2015 is Camp Bethel’s 14th annual Sounds of the Mountains Story and Music Festival. Find out more at www.SoundsoftheMountains.org.



In April **Camp Eder (PA)** welcomed Davis Swift to their Full Time staff. Davis serves Camp Eder as their Adventure Program Coordinator and oversees all outdoor adventure activities in contrast to Camp Eder’s more leisure programs that are coordinated by Lori Jackson, Camp Eder’s Event Coordinator. Davis Swift comes from a rich family history of outdoor ministry; his grandfather founded Camp Susque in Trout Run, PA in 1947 and his parents, David & Ann Swift, also served as their directors for many years. Davis brings a lot of passion and excitement to the ministry of Camp Eder and is committed to seeking creative ideas to inspire growth in programs and individual’s lives. Davis and his wife Kelsey (a science teacher) live in Fairfield with their dog Cooper.



Eder’s summer saw a 15% increase in campers with over 40

expressing public commitments of faith. A new Labor Day Friends & Family Camp was a popular addition to the schedule. A director’s residence is under construction at Camp Eder. The home is expected to be complete by December 1st. Plans for a new climbing tower are underway.





Camp Koinonia (WA) had a very busy summer that rolled right through to Labor Day Weekend. In the middle of summer the bridge that crosses the irrigation canal adjacent to camp developed a troublesome and expensive looking hole in it. Thankfully our friends at the Kittitas Reclamation District provided labor and equipment, leaving camp to purchase the material. The end result is new decking which is much more reassuring to cross. We are looking forward to hosting the OMA. Retreat next month! See you in Washington!

Pieter Tramper has joined the **Brethren Woods (VA)** staff this fall. Pieter is from the Netherlands and was a summer camp counselor in 2012 & 2013. In 2014 he was our Assistant Program Director and this year will continue as our Adventure/Outdoor School Coordinator. He will also lead our high ropes activities and Adventure Days. Pieter, and his new bride Lydia, live in Harrisonburg, VA. He is currently taking classes online through Liberty University and is looking forward to continuing the ministry of Brethren Woods in the future.

Vision has become reality. Fruit of the "Renewing Our Faith Outdoors Capital Campaign" can be seen in many places at **Brethren Woods (VA)**. Over a year's work has gone into our newest facility, Pine Grove. The original idea of a new picnic shelter was expanded to include a stage, commercial kitchen, bathrooms, beautiful fireplace and large deck. We celebrated with a dedication on September 28th with our District Executive John Jantzi. We have already hosted a wedding reception and look forward to many more events for families and groups. The camp will use Pine Grove for our Christmas party and Christmas banquets as well as host a Spring Concert Series in April featuring Southern Grace and the Promised Land Quartet. The possibilities are endless and will change what we do here much like Woodland Retreat Center did 30 years ago. Pray with us that God will use Pine Grove to touch lives as only God can!



Inspiration Hills (OH) has completed the renovations to Cherry Lodge! Toledo Heatherdowns COB closed its doors and donated all its funds to the camp for capital expenses. IH was able to hire a contractor and as a result Cherry is a whole new building. An addition allowed camp to build a handicap-accessible bath house and turn the old bathroom area into a kitchenette and new bunk room. New drywall in the rest of the building as well as serious work on the roof and a deep cleaning mean the smell is gone and the light is plentiful. Camp still plans to grind down and re-seal the floors, finally keeping the moisture at bay.

Inspiration Hills is embarking on a series of leadership overnights designed to help camp prepare CITs and counselors! We had our first overnight October 11-12, with 8 future CITs and 3 future counselors attending. We had a lot of fun and some serious conversations where the future staff hashed out their ideas of what a leader is and does. They also discussed future topics which include: showing Christ-like behavior, inclusion of all campers and making sure everyone gets the most out of camp. We will meet for 4 more overnight "leadership shebangs" before spring.

Mike Ramsier left **Inspiration Hills** in May for a project manager position with a local landscape company. We have missed him but he is enjoying his new job and continues to visit us at camp. Allen Kahler, Shannon's husband, has accepted a position as Interim Facility Manager for the summer and fall, and we hope to hire a full-time manager in the new year.



Camp Brethren Heights (MI) was able to partner with a number of congregations in helping the camp get a new Kubota tractor with a front end loader and mower deck. We also had a new commercial dishwasher and sanitizer installed this spring which helped significantly with our retreat groups and District Conference. We also built an archery range and had our first ever Archery Camp this summer.

Does Your Camp Have a Deserving Volunteer or Employee?

Behind every successful camp are many staff and volunteers keeping everything together and running smoothly. It is important to find ways to honor these people. The Award Nomination Forms in this newsletter are for nominations that you, your camp board or other appropriate persons can use to acknowledge deserving volunteers and staff persons involved in the camping program in your district.

To nominate a person complete both sides of the appropriate form and return it to Curt Rowland at the address listed. At the spring OMA Steering Committee meeting the award recipients will be chosen. They will be honored at the OMA Luncheon at the 2015 Annual Conference. If you are re-nominating someone, please update your nomination with new or additional information. Please note that the form must be filled out completely so we can make an informed decision. Forms not completed will be returned for further information.

What is YPTT?

By - Marlin Houff

During the summer of 2014, four young adults traveled around the world of Church of the Brethren camps, providing program leadership specifically as peace witnesses and sharing creative sessions of peace education for the campers they had the privilege of interacting with. These four persons were the Youth Peace Travel Team (YPTT).

The summer of 2014 team was Chris Bache from LaCanada, California (LaVerne Church of the Brethren); Christy Crouse from Warrensburg, Missouri (Warrensburg Church of the Brethren); Jake Frye from McPherson, Kansas (Monitor Church of the Brethren); and Shelley West from Union, Ohio (Happy Corner Church of the Brethren). They participated in the programs of the following COB camps: Camp Mt. Hermon – Kansas, Camp Colorado – Colorado, Camp Wilbur Stover – Idaho, Camp Inspiration Hills – Ohio, Camp Blue Diamond – Pennsylvania, Camp Pine Lake – Iowa, Camp Hammond Mills – Missouri, and Camp Koinonia – Washington. In addition to these 8 camps they also attended and participated at National Youth Conference in Colorado and Annual Conference in Ohio.

What is a summer of serving on the Youth Peace Travel Team like? Hear these words from the team members themselves: “This summer I discovered my ability to make meaningful connections with people of all ages.” “I traveled to 12 states teaching peaceful conflict resolution techniques based on the peace that Jesus exemplified in his life.” “I am eternally grateful for this opportunity. My experience was phenomenal and . . . I will spread peace as long as I am present to do so.” “You get the opportunity to find out so much about yourself.” “I discovered my gifts and got plenty of chances to use them.” “All people are called to be peacemakers, regardless of occupation.” “This (the YPTT) is necessary for the Church of the Brethren. Future leaders are actually being made in this process.”



The YPTT is a ministry of 5 groups within the Church of the Brethren, each of which provides a mentor to interview and call the team, providing the training for them, and continuing to mentor them throughout their summer of service. These groups are:

- ❖ Church of the Brethren General Offices - Director Youth and Young Adult Ministries – Becky Ullom Naugle
- ❖ On Earth Peace Association – Program Director of Youth and Young Adult Peace Formation – Marie Benner-Rhoades
- ❖ Outdoor Ministries Association – Steering Committee Member – Marlin Houff
- ❖ Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. - Director – Nathan Hosler
- ❖ Bethany Theological Seminary – Coordinator of Outreach Programs – Rebekah Houff

Next year, 2015, there will be another Youth Peace Travel Team called to serve at COB camps. They will be serving at camps in the East. For more information about being a member of the YPTT or an application visit Brethren.org. The application deadline for next summer's team is Jan. 9, 2015.



OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP AWARDS
NOMINATION FORM
CAMP STAFF AWARD

Qualified nominees for this award are persons employed in a Church of the Brethren Camp on a part-time or full-time basis. The nominees will be judged on long-term commitment to outdoor ministry, significant contribution to the development of a district outdoor ministries program, visionary leadership and a minimum of ten years of service.

Please send this completed form to:
Curt Rowland
Camp Mack
PO Box 158
Milford, IN 46542

**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE:
FEBRUARY 16, 2015**

Nominee Name: _____ Date Nominated: _____

___ NEW nomination.

___ Update to a previous nomination.

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Camp(s) Served _____

Staff position(s) held:

Length of service (minimum combined 10 years total):

List the contributions of this person to outdoor ministries:

List the contributions of this person to the total church:

What, in your judgment, qualifies this person for special recognition? Some areas to include, but are not limited to: relationship with staff or board, relationship with campers, administrative skills, vision for outdoor ministries, leadership gifts or program/facilities development.

Nomination made by: _____

Form Completed by: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____



OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP
AWARDS
NOMINATION FORM
CAMP VOLUNTEER AWARD



Nominees for such recognition may be members of district camp boards/committees, district board, counselors, directors or individuals committed to outdoor ministries. The nominees will be judged on long-term commitment, creativity, vision, service and leadership in the area of outdoor ministries and service to the total church.

Please send this completed form to:

**Curt Rowland
Camp Mack
PO Box 158
Milford, IN 46542**

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE:
February 16, 2015

Nominee Name: _____ Date Nominated: _____

____ NEW nomination ____ Update to a previous nomination

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Camp(s) Served: _____

Capacity in which this person served:

Length of service:

List or discuss the contributions of this person to outdoor ministries:

List the contributions of this person to the total church:

What unique or original contribution has this person made?

What, in your judgment, qualifies this person to receive an award? Some areas to may include, but are not limited to: relationship with peers, relationship with campers or staff, commitment to the board, volunteerism at camp, skills used in camping program or facility.

Nomination made by: _____

Form Completed by: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _(____)_____ Work Phone:_(____)_____

E-mail: _____

2014 OMA Camp Staff Award Recipients

Ann Cornell's journey at Shepherd's Spring in Mid-Atlantic District (MD) began long before her service as administrator. Her first connection with the 200 acre center was in 1989 during construction. Ann and her husband, Junior, owned the construction company that helped build the center. The relationship continued as Ann served as a camp counselor and weekly director. Eventually Ann was employed as a cook and then food service director, before becoming administrator.



In 2009, after years of planning and hard work, the Heifer Global Village opened at the Ministry Center. Ann's tireless work and dedication to this project was the impetus that made the dream a reality. Her teaching-by-doing leadership style serves as a blessing to those who work with her. A former staff member said it this way, "Ann is not afraid to push you out of your comfort zone. She encourages you to imagine new ideas and put them into action effectively."

Ann has also walked the camp through the process of becoming accredited by the American Camp Assoc. Through her service at Shepherd's Spring, Ann has been an agent for change and improvement. Her work at the center has inspired it to become a safe and sacred space, where all can feel the love of God.



Paul Witkovsky has served at Camp Blue Diamond in the Middle PA District for nearly 25 years, working for a few years in the 80's as the Assistant to the Director, and beginning full time work as the Facility Director in 1991. While at Camp Blue Diamond, Paul has overseen the construction of several buildings including: a washhouse, ten summer camp cabins, the staff duplex and two large rental cabins. Currently he is heading up a crew of volunteers and staff as he builds a new maintenance building. He is meticulous about construction, making sure buildings look professionally done.

Paul is also a perfectionist when it comes to overseeing maintenance. He loves to mow, weed-eat, and maintain the roads. He has made spreading gravel with a tractor bucket an art form, giving CBD beautiful roads. CBD has 6 miles of state forest roads that need plowing. Paul loves to plow, on snowy days, he can easily spend half a day or more getting the snow off the roads, so rental groups and staff can use camp.

Paul and his wife Julie are active in the Roaring Spring Church of the Brethren. They have served as Camp Reps. for over 20 years. They love camp and convey this well to the children of their church. Many years Roaring Spring sends the most campers to CBD, typically 20 or more every year. Paul believes in service to the church and to others. He served in BVS, and believes his work at camp is a ministry to God and others.

2014 OMA Volunteer Award Recipients

Jim Oren and **Dean Dohner** have been major supporters of Woodland Altars. Both have served many years as members of the Outdoor Ministries Commission of Southern Ohio. Since 1995, when Woodland Altars started keeping records of volunteer hours, Jim Oren has recorded over 2,100 hours, and Dean over 1,500, though both have given many more, uncounted hours.

Jim has served as a skilled maintenance worker. When Woodland Altars decided to rebuild the pool bathhouse, Jim was the Project Manager. In 2013 when the water lines all over camp needed to be replaced Jim again volunteered to be the Project Manager again. Jim is also very involved with the Southern Ohio District Brethren Disaster Ministries. He helps coordinate the Brethren Disaster Ministries annual Ice Cream Social and has gone on Disaster Ministry trips to Indiana, Wisconsin, Mississippi and New York.

Dean is a handyman, conquering the little and big jobs. Each year he helps Woodland Altars set-up for summer camp. He can be counted on to help with tear-down at the summer's end too. Dean is an 'encourager' of youth and adults at his local church, the Potsdam Church of the Brethren. He helps with dinners, sings in the chorus, teaches Jr. High Sunday School and is a church trustee.

Both Dean and Jim are responsible for adding the fishing experience to the Grandparent/Grandchild Camps. They both love to fish, and realized that most children were not getting to experience the fun of catching a fish!

2015 GRANT FUNDING GUIDELINES FOR O.M.A. ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS



Objectives:

This program is intended to encourage Brethren camps and congregations throughout the Denomination to develop new and innovative programs in the field of environmental education. This program seeks to fulfill the church's stewardship mandate (see Creation: Called to Care, a position paper of the 1991 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren).

Procedure:

The OMA Steering Committee on an annual basis will award grants toward a project in the area of environmental education. The area of environmental education will be broadly defined as the application of Christian principles and ethics to environmental issues and stewardship development in a camping setting. Multiple year proposals will be considered but funding for each year will be contingent upon satisfactory progress reports to the OMA Steering Committee. Although matching funds are not criteria for the initial grant approval, it is encouraged that the environmental grant be used as leverage in seeking other funding support. Second year funding will require matching funds and a progress report. Grants of \$500 will be awarded with a maximum of \$1,000 per project.

Applications shall be submitted neatly typed. Supporting documents, endorsements or further details may be included. The Steering Committee shall advertise the grant program in the OMA newsletter and by other means. A deadline for all proposals is February 16, 2015. Applications received after the deadline will be considered during the next granting cycle. The Steering Committee's decisions on the awards at its spring meeting will be final.

Each proposal shall include:

- Goal of project.
- Rationale of project:
 1. Plan for dissemination of results (evaluation of project).
 2. Deadline for submission (lead time before OMA meeting).
 3. Plan for use as teaching program.
- Outline of plan of action including personnel involved with their specific skills and abilities.
- Initiation date & place.
- Use of funds including a detailed budget.
- Length of time to complete project.
- Amount of funds requesting.

Rational to be used in evaluating a proposal:

- Proposal indicates adequate thought leading to successful implementation.
- Quality of goals proposed (originality):
 1. Unique, innovative and original aspects of the project should be emphasized.
 2. One-time event or an on-going program.
- Number of camper days affected at the particular camp.
- Mechanism for results being disseminated to other camps and local groups.
- Effective use of funds including additional funds from local congregation, camp board, or outside groups.
- OMA Camp Membership Required.

Return all forms and enclosures by February 16, 2015 to:

Curt Rowland
Camp Mack
P.O. Box 158
Milford, IN 46542

OMA ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT APPLICATION

Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren

Project Title:

Date of Application:

Type of Application: Original Follow-up Re-File

Camp/Center:

Mailing Address:

Contact Person:

Project Purpose:

Justification for Proposal:

Proposed Activities or Goals to be Achieved:

Number of Campers affected by the Project: _____

Time Schedule: Start: _____

Completion: _____

Final Report to OMA: _____

Personnel Involved: (names and titles; identify special skills or abilities relevant to the project)

Funds requested from OMA: \$ _____

Detailed Budget of total project (list below or attach separately):

Matching Funds or Additional Funding Support:

Endorsements:

Return all forms and enclosures by February 16, 2015 to :

**Curt Rowland
Camp Mack
P.O. Box 158
Milford, IN 46542
574-658-4831**

.....
OFFICE USE ONLY

Action by Steering Committee:

Accepted ____ Rejected ____ Returned for more information ____

Date of OMA Steering Committee Action: _____

Who Lives Near You: Creating a Master Mammals List - Randall Westfall

When I was a child I remember being in love with wild dogs and cats; in fact I remember getting a t-shirt that had a lynx on it and because of my affinity for the wild ones, it was quite possibly my favorite shirt. That t-shirt inspired me to learn as much about the lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) as my 8 year old brain could gather. I went to the library and got every book and field guide I could find on that wild cat. Even though the range maps showed that the lynx didn't live anywhere near where I did in west-central Ohio; I discovered that his cousin, the bobcat did, which led me on another venture to unearth all I could about *Lynx rufus*!

One of the simplest ways to get to know the mammals in your bioregion or at camp is to create a mammals master list. The easiest way to do this is to get ahold of a mammal field guide (check your camp library as they may already have one) or use online resources (see below) and look at the range maps of every mammal and list the ones that are in your area or aren't more than 100 miles from you. Break them down by family groups (canine, feline, mustelids, etc...). Creating this list will give you a knowledge base of what makes each family of animals unique, and a general idea of the visual differences among species. Furthermore, you might be surprised as to who might be living near you though you've never encountered them. This list awakens our awareness of who shares the land with us. Our connection with creation is critical and taking some time to do this activity will help accomplish what the obsessed kid in you has wanted for a long time: to actually find and encounter those animals you are so curious about.



Resources to help you create a Mammals Master List:
Peterson's Field Guide to Mammals of North America (4th Ed.)
http://www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/nature/animal_tracks
Wikipedia's List of Mammals in North America page
Smithsonian North American Mammals page

OMA Membership Renewal Form

If you would like to renew your or your camp's membership, or if you would like to join for the very first time, please fill out the form below and mail it along with your check for to:

Outdoor Ministries Association, PO Box 229, Bethel, PA 19507



Name(s) _____ Camp _____

Mailing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____ District _____

Annual Memberships (Choose One): ___ Student \$20 ___ Individual \$35 ___ Family \$55 ___ Congregation \$75
___ Annual Sustaining, \$150 ___ Camp Professional \$175 ___ Lifetime Membership \$500

OMA Membership Renewal For Camps (Maximum \$500, suggested minimum \$50)

Camp Name _____ Your Name _____

Mailing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____ District _____

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

Note: Annual camp membership includes one Professional Membership. Make checks payable to OMA.



Outdoor Ministries Association News
C/o Camp Blue Diamond
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Huntingdon, PA 16652

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