



Bring A Friend to Camp

By Patrick Loganbill

In all my years of coming to Camp Mennoscah, I feel like there was one thing I never did – bring a friend to camp. Camp has so much to give and I wish I would have recognized that when I was younger. Thankfully, many do invite their friends. These ‘bring-a-friends’ have enjoyed camp greatly and some have counseled or become summer staff. I have asked a few questions of those ‘bring-a-friends.’ My hope was to learn what it was like to be the new person, as well as encourage campers to begin inviting their friends.

What made you want to come to camp?

Madison Remigo: All my friends just talked about it. Everyone raved about it. I figured this was my chance.
Hannah Carlgren: Everyone I knew raved about it. They shared memories and told me how much fun it was.
Josh Carlgren: Honestly I think it was to get my sister off my back.
Kobe Ford: My church had stopped going to their church camp. I had a few conversations with friends about how much fun camp was and decided to come.
Jena Smith: My friend Paige really talked it up. She gave me a lot of specific information.

What got you to come back?

MR: The games and activities were fun and the food was amazing; but what kept me coming back was the people. I’ve never been surrounded by a more friendly and genuine group of people than when I was at Mennoscah.
HC: I came back because I was able to have all the fun I’d been told about and made connections easily.
JC: What got me to come back was just feeling God all around camp, and getting to make a lot of great friends.
KF: My friends who invited me helped me make sure I had a great time which made me want to come back.

JS: I don’t really remember making a decision to come back. I loved it so much that I really wasn’t a decision for me.

How quickly did you feel welcome?

MR: Honestly it was awkward for the first few hours. I remember, at dinner the first night, bonding with a girl over “13” the musical and after that it became easier going up and talking to people.

HC: It took me probably until the first full day. Getting used to the routines were hard but the people really helped me!

JC: I felt welcome pretty much right away. I was approached by a lot of different people and that really made me at ease from the beginning.

KF: It honestly took me 2-3 years to feel completely comfortable. Learning all the routines and schedules took getting used to. After that everything was a breeze and I wouldn’t give it back for anything.



JS: I got comfortable the first day when some staff came over to me and some friends in the pool and got us talking. I think that initial contact was important.

As you can see, they were willing to try new things, though not everyone had the exact same experiences. I think they would all agree that the people at camp would do anything to make someone feel comfortable and want to come back. It just took someone to ask and maybe more than once. I hope you think of one person who could use some Camp Mennoscah in their lives. I encourage you to do what I never did and invite them out this summer!

Cabin Collaboration

By Valerie Klaassen and Kent Erb

Help us name the new cabin! Send suggestions to office@campmennoscah.org

Building cabins at Camp Mennoscah has always been a collaborative effort. According to Aaron Hull, author of *Camp Mennoscah: The First Fifty Years*, in 1952, fifty men from Moundridge area churches met at the



Moundridge 4-H building and built two cabins in one day! Church groups from Buhler and Inman built two more cabins on site each year from 1952 to 1954 (p. 21-23).

Once the decision was made last September to build a new cabin in the boys' cabin area, members of Grace Hill Mennonite Church volunteered to construct the framework in their church Fellowship Hall, continuing in the tradition of their predecessors. In mid-January, 34 church members, including K. John Klaassen who organized the event, assembled the walls. The flurry of activity and the noise of hammers hitting nails made for a fun and rewarding evening of construction! The frame remained up for a prayer of dedication from Pastor Weldon Martens on the following Sunday.

After successful construction of a pavilion near the Retreat Center at camp a few years ago, the Men's Ministry at First Mennonite in Newton returned to camp in February, clearing trees, removing sandy soil, and preparing to pour the foundation for the new cabin, under the fantastic leadership of Jordan Miller.

It is amazing how God placed the right people in the right situation at the right time to make a project like this happen. When someone with framing expertise was needed, they were there; when welding experience was needed, they were there, and so on.



On the weekend of February 17-18, the Grace Hill group hauled the walls out to camp to erect the cabin on the new foundation. As the building has progressed, John Claassen has been busy in his workshop east of Whitewater, constructing bunk beds for the new cabin.

The bonding the First Mennonite group shared made the effort well worth it, and though my (Kent's) daughter will never enjoy the comfort of this new cabin, I know many kids will enjoy it in the years to come.

So far, 56 people have collaborated to build this new cabin. Many thanks to each of you who have volunteered! We are amazed and grateful for the many ways volunteers work together for the good of Camp Mennoscah and our guests.



Loganbills' Love for Camp Makes New Cabin Possible

By Deb Goering

A charitable bequest from Lanoy and Mary Esther Loganbill has made possible the important addition of this new cabin to Camp Mennoscah. We are grateful for their choice to support to camp in such a way.

Lanoy and Mary Esther both grew up in Newton, living there until 1965 when they moved to the house Lanoy designed and helped build north of Newton.

Lanoy and Mary Esther were lifelong members of Bethel College Mennonite Church and were actively involved there until their health no longer allowed it.

Mary Esther was a stay-at-home mom, but was a lifelong learner. She enjoyed almost any kind of history. She played the "Mennonite game" well and could tell you about the relatives you didn't know you had! Lanoy was an electrician by trade, but had many hobbies. He actively played sports as long as his health allowed it and enjoyed planning and building many different projects.



Both Mary and Lanoy enjoyed inviting company to their home, whether it be family, old friends, world travelers, or Sunday School parties.

Lanoy and Mary had more than one Sunday School retreat at Mennoscah. Lanoy helped install electrical wiring in the dining hall, and Mary Esther helped plan and attended Western District women's retreats at Mennoscah. All three of their children came to camp, and the grandchildren who were able came to camp through their high school years, with some coming back to counsel.

We as a family are excited about the new cabin and believe Lanoy and Mary Esther would be glad to know they could support the camp in this way.

Valiant Volunteers: Howard Buller

By Jill Robb

Camp Mennoscah is a place that attracts people of all ages throughout the year; persons young and old, campers and volunteers. Camp has had the privilege of having truly incredible people volunteer not only their time, but their God-given talents to the benefit of camp. Howard Buller was not an exception. Unfortunately, Howard passed away in early February, leaving behind a legacy of expert craftsmanship.

Howard was born in Nebraska where he and his wife, Elma, raised their three children Ruth Ann, Stanley, and Charles. It was during this time that he worked as a mechanic, custodian, and postal clerk retiring as a rural mail carrier in 1986. During his retirement years, he spent time volunteering at Swan Lake Christian Camp, Camp Friedenswald, and Camp Mennoscah as well as various other organizations. While volunteering at Camp Mennoscah, Howard gave his time to help complete the construction of the Retreat Building, painting numerous picnic benches,



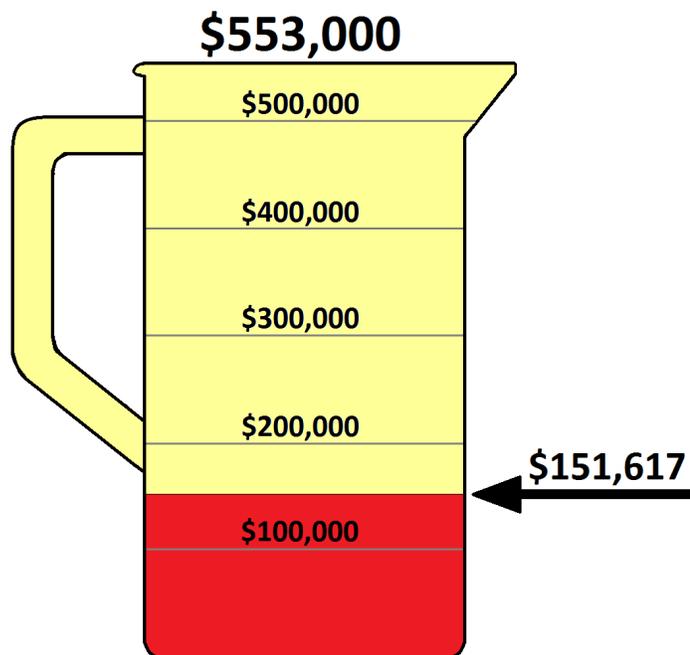
and, most importantly, cutting the nametags campers use throughout the summer months. At Howard's memorial service, his grandson Christian shared of the time he, his dad Stanley, and Howard spent the day cutting nametags. Howard later said it was the best Father's Day gift.

In the Summer of 2007, I personally had the privilege of working along-side Howard as he volunteered. His caring manner and teacher heart made it easy for those on Summer Staff to not only work with him, but also to learn from him. We even had the privilege of playing with his wood toys he was known to create for

MCC sales in surrounding states.

Howard was an incredibly caring man and will be greatly missed not only by his family, but by those who worked by his side volunteering at Camp Mennoscah.

Thank you, Howard. You are missed.



Fill the pitcher!

By Michael Unruh

Help us fill the pitcher by donating to the Camp Mennoscah Dining Hall and Kitchen Renovation project! We are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$553,000 by December 2017. For more details on how the project will enhance the kitchen and dining hall spaces, and for pictures of the initial construction progress, please visit campmennoscah.org.

Thank you for your support!



2017 Retirees Relaxation Retreat
Believe It or Not—Stories of Our Lives
April 24-26, 2017



Register online at campmennoscah.org, with the form available at your church or give us a call for a brochure. Questions about the Retreat? Call 620-297-3014.

Thank You to our 2016 Volunteers!

Pam Abrahams
 Frank Adame
 Jordan Albright
 Cherese Atchison
 Melissa Atchison
 Callan Baldwin
 Jenna Baldwin
 Meagan Baldwin
 Beth Balzer
 Sarah Balzer
 Darla Banman
 Mariah Thompson Banning
 Daniel Barrera
 Aubrey Bartel
 Cappy Becker
 Courtney Belknap
 Grant Bellar
 Justin Beth
 Sarah Booth
 Connor Born
 Emily Brandt
 Karina Brandt
 Linda Buller
 Suzanne Burch
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 Ed Harms
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 Logan Heinrichs
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 Sarah Hofkamp
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 Henry Jantzen
 Katie Jantzen
 Kristin Jantzen
 Mark Jantzen
 Kate Jolliff
 Jim Juhnke
 April Kabagambe
 Jeff Kauffman
 Brandon Kaufman
 Connie Kaufman
 Jennifer Kaufman
 Derek Klingenberg
 Kara Klingenberg
 Joshua Knight
 Denise Krase
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 Pam Krehbiel
 Renetta Kroeker
 Isaac Landis
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 Carrie Unruh
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**Thank you for
 your support!**





Have you visited Bluestem?



Since the purchase of the Kostner property in the fall of 2009, the building has had vast renovations with the help of many volunteers. By the virtue of this assistance, the building has subsequently been used by several groups

visiting Camp Mennoscah from as nearby as Kingman, Kansas to as far away as Portland, Oregon! The first group to rent Bluestem, Support Circle in coordination with Bethel College, kindly donated a guest book to us for groups note their time at Camp Mennoscah. Ruth Kauffman wrote, "I've enjoyed my first visit at Camp Menno a lot...It's a nice camp! Thank you, so much." A group of Super Seniors – what we call our oldest Senior High folks – stayed in the fall of 2016 and wrote, "We had a blast grilling, laughing, and talking while enjoying one of our favorite places on Earth" and "Thank you for letting us stay!" We hope that groups continue to find and enjoy Bluestem, as it provides an oasis and more privacy than our other rental spaces. It is a self-contained facility with a fully equipped kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms upstairs, a basement area containing: a large recreational space with a kitchenette, foosball table, ping pong table, 2 bedrooms with 3 sets of bunk beds each, and 2 bathrooms. As is often the case with facilities, additional work is regularly being done at Bluestem. Some potential additions to the backyard area include: a playground structure, a pavilion, and a fire pit area. We look forward to what the future of Bluestem will bring and delight in what has been a wonderful addition to Camp Mennoscah.

Having a family gathering, small group retreat, or just wanting to get away for the weekend? Consider reserving Bluestem!



Wish List!

Camp Mennoscah has an ongoing wish list of things that we think would make camp more fun and better. We can't think of a situation where we would turn down toilet paper, paper towels or advanced strength duct tape, but if you totally swamp us with your generosity, we'll let you know. Shop local if you can or sign up for AmazonSmile to give back to Camp Mennoscah with any purchases you make through AmazonSmile.com. Find the Camp Mennoscah Wish List (office@campmennoscah.org) in the Amazon Lists menu.

- Counter brushes
- Sturdy, commercial dust pans
- Rubbermaid pitchers
- Mixing bowls for Retreat Center
- Rhino Gear 11912ABMI Rhino Ramps \$49.99
- 1/2" Air Impact Wrench-Harbor Freight Item #62627 \$79.99
- 3/8" drive deep well socket set-Harbor Freight Item #93265 \$12.99
- 1/4" drive deep wall socket set-Harbor Freight Item #61298 \$10.99
- 1 lb. Rubber Mallet Fiberglass handle-Harbor Freight Item #95083 \$6.99
- Standard/queen pillows for Retreat Center at Bed Bath and Beyond Wish List at <http://campmennoscah.org/wish-list/>

Thank you for your support!





Camp Mennoscah

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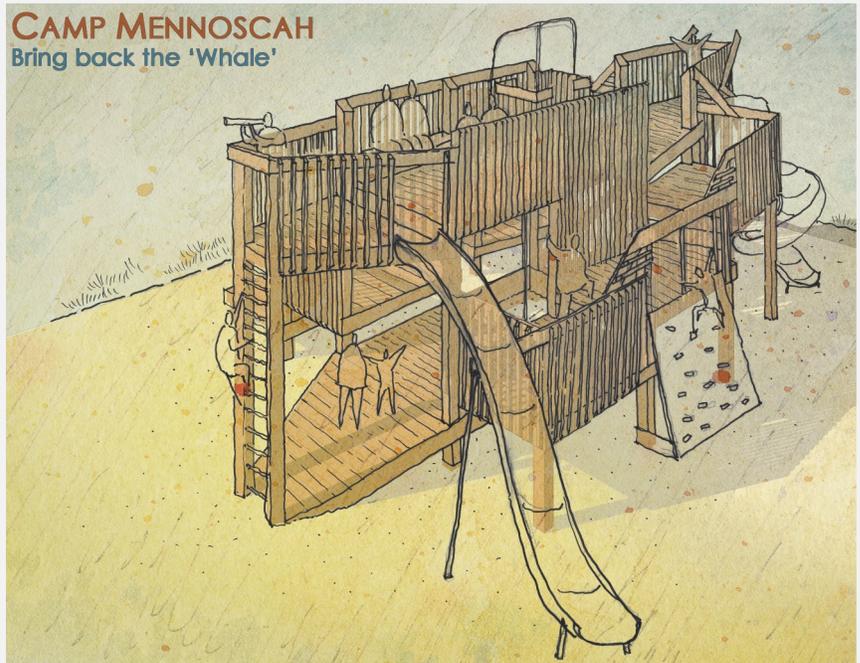
New Playground Structure

By Olivia Bartel

A new playground structure similar to the previous "whale" has been designed by Aaron Dyck, architect, former summer staffer, and all around cool dude. The sketch here shows the most recent drawing of the "Whale." On the opposite side, there are two additional, low platforms and a cable net ladder. There will be changes to the design as we move along, but we wanted to share the excitement with you!

Our goal is to have the playground structure ready for summer youth camps. The estimated cost to build the structure in cedar is \$31,200 with the slides, climbing wall, and cable net ladder an additional \$13,500.

Donations designated for the whale are welcomed. What fun we'll have!



www.campmennoscah.org

