



TRANSITIONS

Executive Director John Shertzer, Black Rock Retreat, Quarryville, PA, has announced his retirement. Thank you John for your years of commitment to Black Rock Retreat!

JOB OPENINGS

Black Rock Retreat, Quarryville, PA, seeks an Executive Director to provide inspired Christian leadership to staff and guests leading to exceptional results - in faith journeys, evangelism, and financial outcomes. The individual will bring energy, passion, and a strong personal faith to this role as he/she leads a growing ministry. If you have a heart for Christ and spreading His Word in a dynamic, growing environment coupled with business acumen, this may be the right opportunity. For more information or to submit a resume/cover letter, send an email to brredsearch@blackrockretreat.com and/or visit the website: www.blackrockretreat.com.

2018 RECRUITING

Wednesday, Feb. 7 - EMU
Thursday, Feb. 8 - Bluffton
Friday, Feb. 9 - Goshen
Monday, Feb. 12 - Hesston
Tuesday, Feb. 13 - Tabor
Wednesday, Feb. 14* - Bethel
Thursday, Feb. 15 - McPherson

* February 14 is Ash Wednesday, so there will not be a camp-related chapel that day.

MCA REGIONALS

Eastern Regional:

March 6-8, 2017 at Beaver Camp, Lowville, NY

West/Midwest Regional:

March 28-30, 2017 at Little Eden, Onekema, MI

MCA NEWS

Recruiting: Program Pie

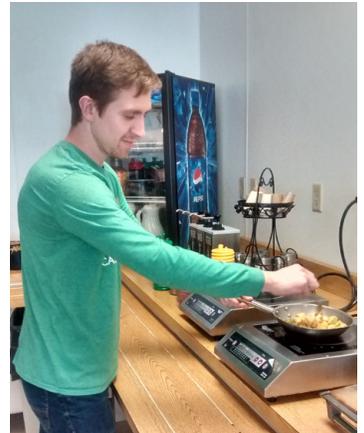
By Jenelle Roynon, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp and Megan Miller, Crooked Creek Christian Camp

After eating lunch in the Tabor cafeteria, Oliva Bartel from Camp Mennoscah mentioned how she could go for some pie. Not wanting to dismiss her desires, we asked ourselves, what are the possibilities? Could we make her a pie? It seemed a bit silly coming from a college cafeteria. We started throwing ideas out there, 'there's fruit-apples or cantaloupe' 'would we have anything to make crust?' 'I think I saw some marshmallows' 'how would we cook it?' As the questions and suggestions kept coming, Kevin Leary from Camp Friedenswald started gathering materials. He arrived back with apples, graham crackers, tortillas and white bread.

We answered the "what if..." We encouraged the seemingly impossible task, spurred on by each others excitement and imaginative ideas.

We made a pie...and a good one at that! Caramel apple pie in a graham cracker crust with an oatmeal crumb topping. We bonded. After spending a week on the road with one another during recruiting, our friendships (old and new) were deepened with a combining event. The only time we had a phone out was to take pictures. It was real, spontaneous, fun, creative and hilarious. It was a shared experience.

To me, MCA is more than just sharing resources, recruiting together, and having a face to recognize at a regional gathering. It helps create a common space to share life together—it's what we hope to provide for campers, and we got to experience it for ourselves!



CAMP UPDATES

Spruce Lake Retreat, Canadensis, PA, www.sprucelake.org

For the past 54 years, Spruce Lake has leased the 499-acre Spruce Mountain with its flowing waterfalls and scenic vista. It's been a favorite place for guests who've hiked, played and worshipped there. But – Spruce Lake had never "owned" it.

However, God has brought together the amazing opportunity to purchase this property. As of settlement February 15, 2017, God is now allowing Spruce Lake to be the permanent caretakers of this special place, secured for future generations!

A hefty price tag loomed. But God inspired a "miracle donation" of \$1 million toward the purchase price of \$1,445,000. The entire Spruce Lake community also pitched in an additional \$117,838 by settlement date! Short term financing is arranged for the remaining balance, and contributions continue to arrive daily.

The purchase is a big dream has come true for Spruce Lake, and fills everyone with awe and praise for God's incredible blessing.

The panorama from the lookout on Spruce Mountain.



Mennonite Camping Association

NATURAL LINKS



MENNONITE CAMPING HISTORY

Since November 23, 2009, the Mennonite Camping Association archives and office files have been in storage at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center in Tiskilwa, Illinois. On February 6 and 7, Mary Lou Farmer, retired administrator of Crooked Creek Christian Camp and current board member, Erin Ramer, travelled to Menno Haven to sort the boxes and prioritize which files should go into permanent archival storage at the Mennonite Church USA Archives at Goshen College. As one can imagine, many interesting (and some not so interesting) files were uncovered. Over the next several months, we'll feature various stories, files and publications.



Mary Lou and a table full of files

Did you know...

The first references to camping in the Mennonite Church were in connection with the General Conference Mennonite mission to the Hopi Indians as early as 1903.

From ***A Vision and A Legacy: The Story of Mennonite Camping, 1920-1980*** by Jess Kauffman

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"Holding camps and retreats within the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches of North America was not an isolated movement with a defined beginning all its own. It was closely related to and influenced by other events and movements both within the church and in society at large.

By 1900 organized camping had become an established institution in North America...The period of greatest expansion for organized camping was the three decades between 1910 and 1940. An early historian in writing of this movement during that time stated that the increase was attributed to the ever-growing revolt against the tyranny of modern city life, and to the effectiveness with which organized camping met children's needs for worthwhile outdoor activity."

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"Significant Beginnings in the 1920s

- 1920 - **Youth camping for Hopi Indians** in northern Arizona by *General Conference Mennonites* and others began this approximate date.
- 1922 - **Boys and Girls taken to the country** was an early part of the program at the *Portland Mennonite Mission* of Portland, Oregon, that was founded on this date. The Fresh-Air Program was followed by an organized camping experience during this decade.
- 1925 - **First Young People's Retreat** on the campus of Bluffton College, sponsored by the *General Conference Mennonite Church*. *Jugendvereine* established by the *Mennonite Brethren* of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Youth Fellowships had been introduced into their United States congregations earlier.
- 1926 - **General Conference Mennonite Youth Retreats** spread to campus of Bethel College, Newton, Kansas and to Eastern and Pacific districts.
- 1927 - **First Youth People's Institute** sponsored by the *Mennonite Church* on the campus of Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana. **First Youth Retreat** sponsored by the *Eastern District of the General Conference Mennonites* on the grounds of University of Pennsylvania.
Youth movements within the Mennonite Church to be studied by the newly appointed Young People's Problems Committee. Literary societies and other gatherings are without churchwide direction.
Retreat for boys and girls sponsored by the *Eastern District of the General Conference Mennonite Church* near Green Lane, Pennsylvania.
- 1928 - **First Retreat for Youth** sponsored by the *California District of the General Conference Mennonite Church*."

The first Mennonite camp founded in North America is still running and a member of MCA. Do you know who it is?
Camp Men-O-Lan in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, founded in 1941