

# MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

# Natural: Links

## JOB OPENINGS

## CAMP UPDATES

Laurelville, Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, is seeking a PT Food Service Coordinator looking to grow in a leadership position with a passion for cooking & Christ-like hospitality. Up to 40 hours in busy (6) months; 10 hrs/week in slow (6) months. \$9-11/hr commensurate with experience. Benefits include: housing (optional), meals when on-duty, sick & vacation pay. Visit [www.laurelville.org](http://www.laurelville.org) for more information.

## DOVE'S NEST



### Dove's Nest Camp Consultation Available!

Two-hour consultations - including written feedback, a phone/Zoom meeting, as well as follow-up - which can be used for:

- Updating current policies
- Processing a situation
- Creating new policies for new activities like virtual camp

Available for very low cost thanks to Schowalter Foundation funding!

Email [anna@dovesnest.net](mailto:anna@dovesnest.net)  
Visit [dovesnest.net/camps](http://dovesnest.net/camps)



### Camp Men-O-Lan, Quakertown, PA, [www.menolan.org](http://www.menolan.org)

Camp Men-O-Lan is canceling their summer programs. See the announcement here: <https://youtu.be/kpj7rpAygHY> The hope is to be able to do some day events later in the summer once the area opens up, but the PA phases are not good for summer camps.

### Cove Valley Christian Camp, Mercersburg, PA, [www.covevalleycamp.com](http://www.covevalleycamp.com)

Cove Valley is making a final decision on May 28 whether to have a modified schedule for camp this summer or not have camp at all. If camp happens, there will be 4 weeks of camp in July instead of 7 camps in June and July. Campers will be in the same groups throughout the week. Meals will be either served cafeteria style or basket meals. The month of June is available for Family Campers to come and enjoy the facilities. As camps, the need to pray for wisdom to not act out of fear but out of God's assurances is key.

### Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA, [www.sprucelake.org](http://www.sprucelake.org)

Even though many staff have been laid off, and the grounds are quiet, Spruce Lake has been busy making internal preparations so life can spring back when doors open again, and providing ongoing nourishment for the wider community:

- Instagram photo contest and other interactive posts
- "Nature Talks" on Facebook and Instagram
- "Encouragement Fridays," short meditations by Pastor Randy Gaumer on Facebook
- Sunday Worship Services, produced by Spruce Lake staff, live-streamed and posted on Facebook.
- Weekly Monday staff meetings (as always) but now via Zoom, to pray for each other and for the needs of every Guest Group who would have normally been on the grounds that week.
- Staff worship team created a special music video to encourage the families of Joni & Friends International Disability Center who would normally have attended Spruce Lake during their two Family Camps in June, but had to cancel.
- The board invited all staff and the wider community to join them in prayer and fasting for the end of COVID-19, Tuesday evening through Wednesday evening each week.
- Spruce Lake is participating in a USDA program offering free, prepackaged meals to local kids ages 18 and younger, currently through June 30th.

SUMMER OUTLOOK, Spruce Lake, now in "Yellow Phase" in PA: All are excited by the possibilities for comeback, even as changes and adjustments will be required of as plans move forward.

- Day Camp – opening June 10 as scheduled, with the required restrictions.
- Wilderness Camp – opening only when PA is cleared for "Green Phase," possibly early July.
- Retreat Center – can open for small groups of 25 or fewer people

### Bethany Birches, Plymouth, VT, [www.bethanybirches.org](http://www.bethanybirches.org)

Bethany Birches plans to run a modified resident camp this summer (wow... the modifications are significant)! If you have some staff who had their heart set on summer camp, and your camp is not running, or you don't need all your staff, will you tell them about Bethany Birches? Email [camp@bethanybirches.org](mailto:camp@bethanybirches.org) or call 802-672-5220. Thanks, Brandon Bergey, Executive Director

More on page 2



Camp Luz, Orrville, Ohio

# MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

## MEET YOUR MCA BOARD

### Mennonite Camping Association Board of Directors

Since the bi-national was cancelled this spring, the board thought it would be a good idea to introduce themselves to you all. Meet your MCA board...



#### **Chris Pot, President, New Hamburg, Ontario**

I have been connected to Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp since 2000 spending two summers (2000 & 2001) as a part of the summer staff team and a year (2005) as the Assistant Director. In 2006 my wife, Amanda and I moved to Japan to teach English and while there we always said that if an opportunity arose to work at Hidden Acres full-time we would jump on it. Well, that opportunity came in 2010 and we, along with our children Hana and Ben, have been serving at the camp ever since; I, as the Program Director and Amanda as the Single Moms Camp Coordinator as well as cooking for many of our rental groups.

I value camp because of the opportunities it provides all people, young, old and everywhere in between, to grow, foster a greater appreciation for the created world around us and make connections with each other and our God. MCA has always been a safe place for me to connect with like-minded folks - anabaptist, camping folks - to share and explore how we can best serve God and others. I look forward to continuing to serve on the board and taking on the president role. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please connect with me at [chrispot@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:chrispot@hiddenacres.ca).



#### **Keith Zehr, Past President, Lowville, New York**

Currently employed half time at the Maple Ridge Center (a sister ministry to Beaver Camp) and half time pastor at Lowville (NY) Mennonite Church. Attended as a camper when Beaver Camp first opened in 1969. I also serve on the Lewis County Fair Board and enjoy promoting bluegrass festivals and concerts and announcing at area race tracks and the occasional tractor pull. Married to Connie Troyer from Beemer, Nebraska whom I met at Hesston College. We have three children and two grandchildren.

#### **Vice President**

Jenelle Roynon, Divide, Colorado, has withdrawn her nomination for consideration to the MCA Board. She recently offered her resignation from her position as program director at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Jenelle shares, "I have truly enjoyed the connections I have made with MCA friends in the last nine and a half years. It was great to share the ups and downs of camping ministry with other camp folk, to learn from each of you, and be blessed by the support of MCA." The MCA board will begin the process of looking for a new president-elect and will offer details for a new nomination to MCA members in the future.



#### **Josh Brown, Secretary, Toano, Virginia**

Josh Brown is the Program Director at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. Despite never going to a Christian summer camp as a child, he finds himself in his 7th year of summer camp ministry. Josh enjoys playing disc golf, listening to music, piña colodas, and getting caught in the rain. He can also play the guitar, piano, and drums and does so for the worship band at his church. He finds writing short biographies about himself quite uncomfortable and has a hard time knowing how to end them. His favorite color is blue.



#### **Olivia Bartell, Member Relations Coordinator**

I am the camp director at Camp Mennoscah in Murdock, KS, and I am in my 12th year at Camp Mennoscah. My job is part administrative, part programming, part mosquito bites, and 100% worth it to see campers, staff and guests have fun and grow at camp. I like happy people, rhubarb, children's books and chai.



#### **Shana Peachey Boshart, Mennonite Church USA Representative**

Shana Peachey Boshart is the denominational minister for faith formation for Mennonite Church USA and represents Executive Board Staff on the MCA Board. Before joining EB Staff in 2018, she spent 20 years as conference youth minister then formation minister for Central Plains Mennonite Conference and one of its predecessor conferences. A graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Shana is trained in both spiritual direction and coaching. She is the founder and curator of [AnabaptistFaithFormation.org](http://AnabaptistFaithFormation.org), a source for Anabaptist faith formation resources. Shana is married to David Boshart. They have three adult sons and four grandchildren.



#### **Erin Ramer, Marketing**

Since 2007, I have been your newsletter and website person. In 2004, I began my camping journey at Amigo Centre and have not really left the Mennonite camping world since working as a freelance graphic designer for several MCA camps and now on the board at Crooked Creek Christian Camp in Iowa. I fill the rest of time by also designing for a number of other Mennonite businesses, Central Plains Mennonite Conference, and working at our local Mennonite Central Committee thrift store, Crowded Closet.