



A Successful Return: The Working Group on Diversity at Catoctin Marks Its Second Year

Dyresha Harris

The Working Group on Diversity at Catoctin (WGDC), a group started two years ago by a group of Catoctin alumni, enjoyed its second successful season this summer. Following the Quaker belief that every person has a unique and valuable place in the community, the WGDC has been implementing a two pronged approach to improving diversity at camp, which includes working to improve access to Catoctin for young people and staff of color and working within the community to make the environment ever more supportive of diversity.

"The real start was in 2009, when we helped get my friend's niece go to camp," says Alison Duncan, co-clerk of the WGDC. "But it turned into a program in 2010 when we recruited, transported, outfitted, and fundraised to send 6 campers. This summer we sent 8 campers and we hope to keep expanding." Four of the campers were returning for a second or third summer. Three were younger siblings who had gotten excited about the program after hearing their sibling talk about it. One was from a family new to the program. Two campers from 2010 did not return, but hope to rejoin the program in 2012.

WGDC members raised funds, getting donations of money & gear from many sources within and outside



Catoctin campers

photo by Dyresha Harris

of the BYM community. All told, they secured ten sets of gear and \$8,500, including grants from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Friends Institute Granting Group, proceeds from events, and donations from individuals and one Meeting. Families of the children involved also contributed and did their own fundraising, selling things from candy bars to full dinners. Simultaneously, the WGDC worked to get the children and their families ready for camp, hosting family potlucks, as well as a practice hiking trip in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. This year, campers who had gone to Catoctin in 2010 were able to lead much of the discussion about camp culture, schedules, and traditions. They gave each other peer advice about the things at camp that felt either exciting or strange and how they adjusted.

Eo Trueblood, a Catoctin alum who volunteered with the WGDC to help lead the hiking trip, notes: "It was really great watching the campers who had been to Catoctin the year before taking ownership of camp and taking the lead in teaching camp songs and games to those who were going to be first years that summer."

Indeed, that sense of ownership is a big part of the WGDC's mission. The group's founder, Dyresha Harris, is a woman of color who spent many formative years

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Listed are the members of the Camping Program and Camp Property Management Committees. Feel free to contact them if you have any thoughts or concerns. Call the Yearly Meeting office for contact information, or consult the 2010 Yearbook.

Camping Program

Elizabeth Krome and Joshua Riley
co-clerks

JoAnn Dalley	Charlottesville
Brooke Davis	Richmond
Frosty Davis	Baltimore, Stony Run
Kimberly Doll-DeSha	Baltimore, Stony Run

David Diller	Adelphi
Natalie Finegar	Sandy Spring
Gary Gillespie	Homewood
Nathan Harrington	Sandy Spring
Mark Haskell	Washington
Thomas Horne	Takoma Park
Carol Hurst	Charlottesville
Lynada Johnson	Annapolis
Elizabeth Krome	Williamsburg
Kathy Lipp Farr	Washington
Joshua Riley	Hopewell Centre
Rex Riley	Frederick

Ex Officio:

Jane Megginson	Camp Program Secretary
	Director, CQC
Elaine Brigham	Director, OQC
Hope Swank	Director, SQC
Jesse Austell	Co-Director, TA
Jen Schneider	Co-Director, TA
Tasha Walsh	Director, TA Bike

Camp Property Management

Ronald Lord - clerk

Alene Carteret	Homewood
Don Crawford	Valley
Thomas Gibian	Sandy Spring
Charles Greene	Sandy Spring
Steve Hendrix-Jenkins	Washington
Stephen Keach	Sandy Spring
Ronald Lord	Sandy Spring
Kate Meaker	Sandy Spring
William Schauffler	Sandy Spring

Ex Officio:

David Hunter	Camp Property Manager
Lynada Johnson	Camping Program
Richard Liversidge	Trustee

Ode to Opequon Quaker Camp

Jordan Mannix-Lanchner (Opequon grad, TALT Bike Camper 2011)

The first time I saw Opequon, I was picking up my cousin. All I remembered was that the ground was really dirty in this sweat lodge he built in the woods. Two years later I was at the bottom of the Opequon hill, looking at a board that had my future cabinmate's names. Colleen, Ellie, Holland... I wondered what kind of people were behind the names.

At the top of the hill, my counselor Wynne took me to my cabin, cheerfully chatting with me the whole way. Naturally shy, I sat alone in the cabin for a few minutes after Wynne went off to help someone else. From my vantage point, I saw a girl in the cabin next to me burst through her door as another girl ran up and hugged her. I wondered if I would make a friend like that during the next two weeks.

And did I ever. I not only bonded with the amazing girls in my cabin, I bonded with my counselors, with the g-staff, with the outdoors, with Opequon.

The next year was even better. I came back to the best friends I'd ever made, wishing I'd been a camper for my whole life. That second summer I stayed for a month and it was the best month of my life.

Opequon has a magic that can't be described with words. Whether it's the entire camp yelling "feed the worms!" after an announcement about composting, or the refreshing feeling of adults NOT telling you to be quiet, Opequon surprises you with joy at every turn.

Opequon opened me up to a whole new world. I have friends from all over the country, all over the globe. Thanks to Opequon and TA, I'm part of a loving community that I will be lucky to be a part of for the rest of my life.

"Opequon does a lovely job of promoting the artistic spirit of kids. We also love all of the singing and the counselors' deft job of keeping everyone involved and included." - Opequon evaluation



Opequon campers

photograph by Jenifer Morris

2011 Camping Season a Challenging Success

Jane Megginson, Camp Program Secretary
This past year has been very challenging in my administrative position for the Yearly Meeting and the Camps. The challenge in my work, and in the world right now, is the perception that we are in trouble financially, that our status is uncertain, that we do not have enough, and/or that we might not have enough tomorrow or the next day. This has created a decrease in enrollment at our camps that has forced us to scrimp and save, in hopes that we will make it through another season without losing our collective shirts.

Rather than have this report be a message reinforcing that fear – fear of uncertainty, fear of losing what we have and what we want, I quickly want to make this a message of plenty. We have so much. We have each other; we have a community; we have plenty. That is what I strive to keep in front of me. That is the message I want to send out. We have plenty. We have so much. We have each other.

There is much to be grateful for this year! We served 536 campers at five different camps. We launched a new program, Teen Adventure Bike, and successfully ran two bike trips for our young adventurers! We had 118 parents, relatives and other interested adults help us make camp a reality this year by doing a work grant at a camp. We employed 127 young people while teaching them leadership skills and giving them the opportunity to participate in creating a working and living Quak-

er Community for themselves and hundreds of participants!

We welcomed new Directors to our program, Tasha Walsh as the new Teen Adventure Bike Director, and Hope Swank, the new Co-Director of Shiloh, who will be taking on the role of solo Director at Shiloh this coming season. Tasha and Hope bring a wealth of experience and many skills with them as they broaden their roles in the Camping Program. We say goodbye to longtime director and lifetime camp participant, Linda Garrettson, as she moves on from serving us faithfully for the past 16 years as



Teen Adventure Bikers take a break

photograph by Tasha Walsh

Director of Catoctin. Our search for a new Director at Catoctin has begun and is promising. We have welcomed several new members to the Camping Program Committee, many of whom have participated in the Camping Program for many years in many capacities. I look forward to the renewed energy of the Camping Program Committee and the work that we will accomplish in the coming year. In particular, we will be focusing on ways to increase enrollment, retain current campers, and strengthen our ties with Camp Alumni.

A project we have been working on for many years finally came to

fruition - the BYM Camp Cookbook is finished – YAY! It encompasses recipes and photos from all of our camps, and includes a Camping Program history and timeline as an additional bonus. It is available for purchase through the BYM Office and is a great trip down memory lane for past and current camp families.

We set a goal in 2010 to raise the funds to build a pond for campers at Shiloh and this year we met that goal – with the help of many parents of campers, camp alumni, camp staff, campers, individual members of the Yearly Meeting, and many Monthly Meetings. It brought tears to my eyes this past winter when we received a donation for the Shiloh Pond from a camper who had never been to Shiloh before. This summer, the counselors at Catoctin felt so strongly that Shiloh needed a pond that they decided to all donate to the Shiloh Pond Fund. I know that many of our Meetings are struggling financially,

but so many Meetings, in spite of the uncertain times dug deep and gave generously to the Pond Fund. Thanks to everyone who helped make that goal a reality – we have plenty! Building the much needed pond at Shiloh has begun!!!

We needed more money than ever to help support campers who could not afford to come to camp, and we gave more financial aid this year than ever before – and were very glad to be able to do so.

We are managing to squeak by financially in the Camping Program, thanks to the willingness of

Success continued on page 4

Camps Continue to Succeed

Success continued from page 3 the skilled and caring staff at the camps to work diligently saving money and persuading campers to stay longer, the unexpected bonus of some funds coming in from the Barry Morley Scholarship Endowment, and from the generosity of members of the camp community and the Yearly Meeting. I do marvel, year after year, at how we manage to pull off this large undertaking, the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Camping Program. I am grateful that you all support this program and I am heartened by the change that it creates in the lives of the participants. A few of the many examples we collect after camp of the ways the Camping Program impacted the lives of participants:

From a camper parent:

My daughter was at peace when we came to pick her up, in a deep way that I see all too rarely when she is out in the world. She was challenged, she was cherished, she was excited and happy and out in nature with all sorts of other kids who didn't think she was a

wierdo for being thoughtful and hyper at the same time. What more can one ask for, really?

From a counselor and past camper-

Personally, the BYM camps have been the largest factor of my emotional and spiritual growth throughout my life. Starting attending Opequon at the earliest age possible, completing the Teen Adventure program, and returning to be a counselor at Opequon have opened up indescribable opportunities in my life. As a counselor this past summer I saw my campers develop and grow stronger and more confident in themselves each day, I've never seen a community that fosters this type of growth this fast or with such success. The healthy challenges that camp presents through its backpacking, canoeing, rafting, rock climbing, and service are beautiful ways in which campers and counselors alike can grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Through instilling a love of the outdoors in campers at such a young age the de-

sire to continue a relationship with the natural world is something I saw ever present in campers this past summer; even just a two night trip on the Appalachian Trail would have campers discussing conservation of natural resources, something that they can invest in and grow into strong leaders in the future. It is amazing to see how much a 9-14 year old can grow in as little as a one-week session at camp, and this is something I hope to expand the accessibility of. I would recommend the BYM camps to anyone camper age, and would recommend working in the BYM camping community for anyone as well.

We have a wealth of resources in this Yearly Meeting. We have a lot of liveliness, belief, faith, struggles that we work through, differences that we work to honor, and many members who gather together to create community, to make our collective lives better. We are deeply blessed in that we have a vibrant community of young people and as a Yearly Meeting we are committed to providing programs for our Youth. This is an incredible resource for us and one of the reasons we continue to grow as a Yearly Meeting. We nurture our Youth and by doing so we nurture ourselves and our community.

Going forward, my challenge to myself and to all of you, is to remember to fall back on faith, not fear, to remember our blessings, to be grateful for what we have, and to reach out to help others in need.



Teen Adventure campers

photo by Gabe McCarthy

Catoctin Quaker Camp in October!

What a difference one year makes....



Last weekend of October 2010



Last weekend of October 2011

BYM Camps need your help to increase enrollment!

Why?

- We know from your feedback that our camps provide a valuable experience that campers and families cherish
- Camp is much more fun if the cabins are full – more friends to make, more fun playing games, more boisterous feeling
- We have much more competition from day camps now, particularly at Quaker and private schools
- If our camps are full we will be able to keep the fees reasonable and pay our staff more
- Every empty bunk at camp is a missed opportunity to affect a child's life

What can YOU do?

- Identify friends of your family who are camp age or have kids who are camper age (9-14) and talk to them about coming to camp!
- Talk about your own experience with BYM Camps with people in your church, neighborhood, schools, hairdresser, etc – get the word out!
- If people you are talking with are interested in camps, refer them to Jane, or to the BYM Camps website – www.bymcamps.org
- If you want to do more or would like some more info to give out, contact Jane, jane@bymcamps.org, 717-481-4870 to get brochures, posters to put up around your community, etc.

What do kids get out of attending our camps?

- Experience of living in an intentional community that stresses teamwork, inclusiveness, and participation
- Fun and games
- Stimulation of creativity
- Enhanced social skills and friendships made
- A place to be yourself and be celebrated for who you are
- Singing
- Physical, spiritual and emotional challenges that foster growth, self-esteem, and independence
- An extended time living unplugged and finding out how much fun that can be!
- A very high ratio of staff to campers – 1 to 3
- Time spent in the wilderness learning and enhancing outdoor skills
- Participation in chores - more teamwork

Cooking at Shiloh is Rewarding

Betsy Krome (Williamsburg)

People sometimes ask me why, when I take a summer break from my pottery studio, I spend this “off” time in a warm kitchen feeding a hundred people. Well, okay, hot kitchen.

There are so many answers. A simple answer is that although the Shiloh kitchen is hot while we’re cooking, the nights are cool, and where else can I sleep alone in my tent in a field and feel totally safe?

A less flippant answer would have to involve the teamwork that keeps the kitchen humming. Each week I greet a new team of cooks. Usually the group is a mixture of returning cooks and parents who are brand new to the kitchen and perhaps to the camp itself. The amazing thing is how quickly most groups figure out how to work together. Over the years I’ve been in the kitchen I’ve come to understand why camp cooking is so satisfying: as adults we have few opportunities to work together on a tangible, physical product – in this case a product that comes together over only a few hours, and is enthusiastically appreciated. Of course the opportunities for interesting conversations over a cutting board are a great plus.

My answer also has to mention the rich experience of worshipping with campers and singing with them. Queries at the fire circle evoke amazing responses from campers, sometimes the very youngest ones.

In a world dominated by pop culture we too easily forget that even young children can think deeply about their lives and the world around them. And the singing at the fire circle is so wonderful – this past summer in particular, the singing was glorious.

One of the privileges of being a camp cook is being a fly on the

20’s, regard camp as the place that made them who they are. These days they have real-world jobs and I come to camp without them – but the richness of community life at Shiloh is reward enough for my weeks of kitchen work. It makes me wonder why everyone doesn’t want to spend the summer in a hot kitchen cooking for a hundred.



Cooking at Shiloh Quaker Camp

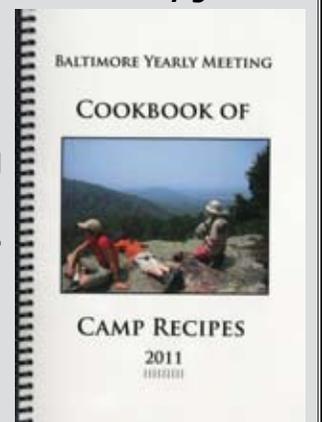
photo by David Johnson

wall. We are an integral part of camp, but to the campers we are just part of the landscape, so we get to see campers and counselors in all their amazing creativity, energy, homesickness, joy, tiredness, dirtiness, and silliness. We also get to witness the growth: new campers who have never sung a camp song, perhaps never slept outdoors, who by the end of session are singing Little Tom Tinker at the top of their lungs. And of course parent-cooks at fire circle might be singing Little Tom Tinker at the top of their lungs, too.

Sharing the camp world that one’s child loves is a special privilege. My own children, now in their late

The BYM Camps Cookbook makes a great gift! At just \$20 per book, you can get one for every camper you know! To order, just

contact the Yearly Meeting office (301-774-7663 or admin@bym-rsf.org)





Catoctin campers

photo by Dyresha Harris

Diversity Work Continues to Grow in Second Year

Diversity continued from page 1 at Catoctin. She explains, "I know that Catoctin can benefit greatly from increased diversity in general and these great kids in particular. But it's also really important that this experience gets to be for them. Just like with all our campers, the Catoctin community is completely theirs and they are neither guests, nor representatives here, but rather important and integral members. That's why we do a lot of the other supportive work both with their families and within the camping program, to make sure they can feel that."

The "supportive work" the WGDC does has taken many forms. This summer, Harris, along with an experienced and diverse team of five current and former staff from Catoctin, Opequon, and TA, led a two-day diversity training for staff of all five BYM camps during 'skills week'. The WGDC also recommended a diversity committee be convened on

site at Catoctin periodically through the summer, and over half of staff volunteered to join it. This group continued work on an ongoing "diversity audit", combing through Catoctin's cultural, environmental, and daily practices to identify areas where the program is already supporting diversity well and areas where it can be improved. Some of its suggestions, such as including explicit language about diversity in parent publications have already been carried out.

A counselor on the diversity committee, Giovanna Selvaggio, said "we grew up with the idea that everybody belongs at camp, and now we are putting that into action in a bigger way. Counselors are being pushed to be more inclusive, and everyone is learning a lot at a really young age."

The WGDC is working to increase its stability by becoming an institutional part of the camping program. Thus,

after receiving an official minute of support from the Camping Program Committee and an invitation to join last spring, it is in the process of becoming an official sub-committee. WGDC organizers hope that, in addition to increasing the number of campers it is able to subsidize and support, the group will eventually be able to expand to include and partner with efforts at all BYM camps and to take on other issues of diversity beyond race/ethnicity. They hope that others in the BYM community will be inspired to join them.

Camp Program Secretary, Jane Megginson, said "the work that the WGDC has done is nothing short of incredible! They have thought through every aspect of increasing diversity at Catoctin to make it a success."

This past summer, the WGDC had its first camper finish her last year and "graduate" from Catoctin. "I was really proud of [the camper] as she went through her torches ceremony," says Harris. "And as I watched her hugging each person who passed, her face streaked with tears at leaving a place she loved, I knew that I couldn't ask for a better picture of why this work matters."

There are many ways to support this project. For more information on ways to help, donate, or find resources for a potential camper contact us at bymcampdiversity@gmail.com.

Shiloh Pond Success: We're Diggin' It!

The digging of the Camp Shiloh pond has begun! You can see it progress on Facebook at "Shiloh Quaker Camp Pond Project." Tell everybody we'll have a pond there this summer, because we have room for more kids to come! What did it take to allow us to begin the digging? It was the beauty of all of us in the Quaker and camp community working and having fun together as we made good things happen.

- Individuals gave generously;
- Linda Garrettson, departing Camp Catoctin Director, gave us all a going away gift by driving the Teen Adventure shuttle bus to raise donations for the pond;
- A Shiloh camper sold a poem;
- Camp Program Committee members and other volunteers produced the Camp Cookbook. It sold like blueberry hotcakes!;
- Chrissie Deviney made a gorgeous quilt featuring the Fire at the Center logo which was auctioned on eBay;
- BYM Meetings and their committees deliberated carefully and gave very generously;
- Jane Megginson and David Hunter helped make connections, provide information and coordinate camp projects;
- Camp alumni made phone-a-thon calls;
- Development Director Robinne Gray and the BYM Development Committee worked on planning, support and coordination of projects and payments, as well as communication with individuals and Monthly Meetings;
- A young Friend (and soon-to-be Camper) gave finger-puppet performances for \$1 each.

Fundraising for the pond reached out to the entire Camp community: campers, alumni, counselors, parents, Friends around the region (and world), and Quaker Meetings. The Camping Program Committee and Camp Property Management Committee are very grateful to David Hunter and Allen Fetter, who have given countless hours and tremendous physical and mental energy to the design and construction of the pond. For all of this great work (and for the fun, too!) Our cup of gratitude runneth over.

Friends who wish to make a gift in honor of Linda Garrettson's retirement as director of Catoctin Quaker Camp may send a check to the BYM office. At Linda's request, gifts in her honor will be directed to the Barry Morley Scholarship Endowment. Please make a note in the memo field noting that your gift is honoring Linda.

Did Camp change your life? Here is a way to say thanks. The BYM Camp Alumni Fund receives gifts made via monthly automatic donations from the Camp community. This year, an alum has offered to give \$100 for each new Camp donor who signs up for automatic monthly giving, up to a total of 15 donors. (\$1,500) The new donors commit to a minimum of \$15 per month, and agree to remain in the program for 12 consecutive months. By signing up for monthly giving, camp alumni extend their own gifts and are admitted to the annual Camp Alumni Reunion for free! As of November, TEN camp alumni have signed up to make monthly donations to the Camp Alumni Fund since the challenge began. FIVE MORE monthly donors will help us obtain another \$500 for the Alumni Fund. We know that there are many more former campers and counselors who would be willing to support camperships and camp operation in this way. To enroll in the monthly giving program, return the form below, or contact Robinne Gray, Development Director.

Yes! I/we would like to make a monthly give to the BYM Quaker Camps!

Name: _____ **City, State:** _____

Please process a monthly contribution of \$_____ to the BYM Camps from my checking account. (Please attached a voided check)

(Note: If you would like the monthly amount charged to your credit card, please visit the Yearly Meeting's website (bym-rsf.org) and click on the secure "Make a Gift" link on the top right, then follow the instructions.)

I/we hereby authorize Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Vanco Services, LLC to process monthly gifts from the above mentioned account. I understand that this authority continues until I notify the BYM office in writing that I wish to discontinue my participation in the monthly giving program.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Camp Property Management Report

David Hunter, Camp Property Manager

It has been a very active 12 months and many projects we have been planning for years are springing to life. Other projects that we have been working on for years are nearing completion. I have enjoyed building the kinds of friendships that only shared work can forge.

With all of these "big things" happening it has sometimes been challenging to keep up with the "small stuff." I have been gratified and humbled to find that I have colleagues that are willing and ready to support me in my work when it becomes necessary. They have proven to be a blessing to me in the last year.

Catoctin Quaker Camp

Work on an approved site plan for Catoctin continues and many of the biggest hurdles have been overcome. Our site plan has received the conditional approval that we had hoped for. We plan on celebrating



Preparing for the anemometer photo by David Hunter

the final approval by building a cabin in the spring of 2012. Former Catoctin counselor, Caretaker, and timber frame builder Peter Bugler has agreed to help us erect another timber frame structure. Campers, counselors, and off-season renters have all expressed their appreciation for these cabins and their simple beauty and utility. Friends Service Weekend participants have enjoyed building these cabins in the past and they are eager to get to work on another cabin in the spring.

Alternative Energy at Catoctin

For several years the Camp Property Management Committee has discussed possibilities for alternative energy systems. We have learned that Catoctin could be a site for a wind to energy project. To assess this potential we applied to the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) Anemometer Loan Program. Our request was readily accepted and, because of the unique potential of the site, we were moved to the top of the list. This summer volunteers prepared a site for the anemometer. Soon the MEA will install the tower and anemometer and we will begin gathering data. The anemometer will gather wind speed data for about 12 months that will serve as a guide as we plan for green alternatives at the camps and help us secure funding for any subsequent wind to energy projects.

Opequon Quaker Camp

We planned to replace a cabin at Opequon in the spring of 2011. We had installed piers and built the floor of the cabin before difficulties with getting permits for the cabin forced



New cabin at Opequon photo by David Hunter

us to stop building. Unfortunately, it was not possible to finish before camp opened. But, Opequon being Opequon, the campers and staff found a creative used for the cabin floor. They enjoyed having a "stage" at camp this summer. The permitting problems have been resolved and work has resumed. Friends Service Weekend participants have erected the walls and trusses, and work will continue over the winter months.

Shiloh Quaker Camp

For several years we have been contemplating a pond at Shiloh and asking ourselves "Can we dig it?" This summer, through the generosity of BYM Friends, camp parents and the wider camp community, the answer to this query came echoing down from the mountains and rolling up the valley, "Yes, we can!"

We began work on September 20th and we have been making steady progress since then, in spite of the unfavorable weather. The site for the pond (in the hollow between the dining hall and the fire circle) has been cleared. Excavation will begin in November and the vision will be well on its way to becoming a reality!

A great deal of thought has gone into locating the pond, thinking about how it will serve the camping program, and how it will fit with the landscape. The pond will be about

12 feet deep at its deepest point and will be a little more than 3/10s of an acre. The swimming area will be lined with a fine gravel to help keep the water clear and bacteria counts low. There will be a grassy area around the pond and the edge of the forest will be lined with pines to help reduce the number of leaves and other debris that will blow into the pond. A path will go across the top of the pond's dam to allow access



Shiloh caretaker Ralph Reed at the new pond site photo by David Hunter

to the meeting area. I can't wait to enjoy watching the sun sparkle on the water and reflect off camper faces during Meeting for Worship in the morning next summer!

We have found a wonderful, local excavating company with deep roots in the area, lots of experience building ponds and great attitude towards life and work. Oliver Campbell of Campbell Excavating (and other members of his family as needed) will be working under the direction of Allen Fetter, BYM Friend, former BYM camper and counselor, and current camp parent. Allen has already dedicated many, many hours of his time and expertise to making sure that plans for the pond have gone smoothly and has committed to serving as general contractor (all on a volunteer basis) until the project is completed. We are fortunate

to have his energy, experience and training behind this project and we will owe him a deep debt of gratitude when we take our first plunge into the new pond!

It is all possible because of the open heart and the open hand of BYM Friends, Meetings, camp parents and others in the broader camp community. We are positive, can do people at BYM camps but I think that a lot of us had second thoughts about our ability to reach our fundraising goal. As we set out, many Friends stretched themselves and got the ball rolling. We felt momentum began to build and suddenly the winds of the Spirit were at our backs and we found ourselves approaching our goal. Looking back it is easy to see what a testament it is to the important place that the camping programs have in the hearts of the people

that they touch.

The Camp Property Management Committee

The Committee is responsible for ensuring that the camp properties are good homes for the camping programs. I have felt some sadness as old friends have rotated off of the committee, but have enjoyed getting to know new Friends as they join the committee. It all serves to remind me that I have been involved with this committee's work for a while now and it is a pleasure to watch as the care of the camps is passed from one set of loving hands to another.

Rentals

The camp properties are available in the off-season for use. It is affordable for those who are visiting and it is great fun to share some of the camp experience.

Finally

Once again I find myself overcome with gratitude for the opportunity to care for some of the most beautiful places in our area. It is an honor to work with such a dedicated group of Friends, willing to offer their time and resources in order to create a vision for our organization, plot a course for the future, and ensure that these gifts will be available for generations to come.

Save-the-Date: 2012 Camp Alumni Reunion October 5 – 7

The date has already been set for next year's Camp Alumni Reunion! We hope you'll put the 2012 reunion on your calendar and join us for food, games, nature walks, swimming, Meeting for Worship around the firecircle, and catching up with each other—not to mention meeting so many of our children, who are the Camping Program's next generation! The 2012 event will be held again at Catoctin Quaker Camp, and we're hoping to have even more alumni from all the camps there!

Friends Service Weekends

Service Weekends offer us all an opportunity to come and enjoy our camp properties for a day or for the weekend. There are always plenty of work projects but it is also a great time to come to camp and explore, play in the creek or enjoy a walk in one of our precious places. Work projects offer people with all kinds of skills the opportunity to enjoy some meaningful and satisfying work. We come to camp, spend some time among a community of Friends, enjoy meals together, have time to explore, spend time around a camp fire in the evening and offer our time and enthusiasm to the places that we love. Join us in 2012.

There will be the maintenance and repair work that we are always doing so we will be needing lots of help in the year to come! A tentative list of Friends Service Weekend dates for 2012 follows:

Spring 2012 Friends Service Weekends

Shiloh Quaker Camp	April 27 – 29, 2012
Catoctin Quaker Camp	April 20 – 22, 2012
Opequon Quaker Camp	May 4 – 6, 2012
Catoctin Quaker Camp	May 11 – 13, 2012
Catoctin Quaker Camp	May 18 – 20, 2012

Fall 2012 Friends Service Weekends

Catoctin Quaker Camp	September 14 – 16, 2012
Shiloh Quaker Camp	September 21 – 23, 2012
Opequon Quaker Camp	September 28 – 30, 2012

Please visit www.bymcamps.org/work_weekends.htm for more information and send an e-mail to davidhunter@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend



Repairs at the Catoctin Bath House during a fall Friends Service Weekend

photo by David Hunter

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Camping Program
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sandy Spring, MD
Permit No. 10112

Do you want to receive the
firecircle via email?
Send your current email address to:
admin@bym-rsf.org

**The BYM Camps Cookbook makes a great gift!
See page 6!**

The Firecircle is published annually by the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. If you'd like to submit an article or have a comment, please direct it to BYM Camping Program 717-481-4870.

2012 Camp Season Enrollment Begins January 15

Camp registration will open Sunday, January 15th at 1:00 pm for returning campers. Starting February 1st at 1:00 pm, we will accept registrations from new campers. If you are a returning camper and want to make sure of your spot in a particular session, please register as soon as you can. Enrollment is first come, first served. This will include registration for Teen Adventure, so if you want to make sure you get in, please register as close to opening as possible.

Like last year, please sign up for Work Grants (working a week at camp as a cook, maintenance or medical person to offset camper fees) ONLINE at the same time you sign up for camp. If you are a returning work granter and your kids are NOT attending camp for the first time, please sign up for a work grant the first week your child is attending camp if possible!

