



## Improvements and Plans for Camp Properties Coming!

David Hunter, Camp Property Manager

We have finished another camping season, another busy year of property improvements, and a round of planning for the future. It has been a remarkable twelve months. We've seen the efforts of many years come to fruition. Several projects are ready to move into the actualization phase. Others are still in flux. It is a great time to reflect on where we have come over the last few years and where we would like to go next.

### Catoctin Quaker Camp Commercial and Residential Wind Energy Purchase Programs

This spring we were able to enroll Catoctin in a program that will supply us with 100% Green e-certified local wind energy to meet all of our electrical needs at a fixed rate for the next 3 years. This is likely to save money over the long run and ensures that our electricity dollars support investments in a sustainable energy infrastructure. This opportunity was created by Interfaith Power and Light and Groundswell, who are working together to allow non-profits to create power buying collectives. Families in Maryland and DC were also able to purchase electricity under a similar contract for their homes. This year, BYM enrolled more households than any other organization in the program!

Catoctin uses 100% wind-generated electricity!

You can too!

Get 100% Wind Generated Electricity for your Maryland or DC home at competitive prices through the Groundswell non-profit energy buying collective and secure a contribution for BYM Camps. <http://groundswell.org/applycphomes>



### Camper Cabins

In 2012, we completed a sixth camper cabin at Catoctin. We are looking forward to building a seventh this fall and winter. Peter Bugler continues to help us with replacing camper cabins, and we are in his debt. We used a Friends Service Weekend to put up the frame of the cabin, but Peter provided most of the labor to complete the cabin. These cabins serve as functional and attractive buildings that are a testimony to simplicity, beauty, and craftsmanship.

### Alternative Energy at Catoctin

We continue to be interested in producing wind energy. In 2013 the Land and Cultural Preservation Fund receive a grant to study the feasibility of Community Scale Wind Energy Production in Maryland. They have used Catoctin as a case study and are beginning to inform potential investors and other stake holders about their findings. Their work may lead to a project in our area. Such a project might offset our energy costs at Catoctin in the future. It will certainly lead to a greater investment in sustainable energy in Maryland and we are happy to give our support to this effort.

Camp Plans continued on page 6

## 2014 Camp Dates

**Catoctin, Shiloh, and  
Opequon Quaker Camps**

**Camp Opens June 28  
Camp Closes August 10**

**Teen Adventure**

**Camp Opens June 28  
Camp Closes July 20**

**Remember that TA often fills quickly!**

[bymcamps.org](http://bymcamps.org) · [jane@bymcamps.org](mailto:jane@bymcamps.org) · 717-481-4870

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 2012 Yearbook.

### Camping Program

Natalie Finegar and Gary Gillespie  
co-clerks

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Allegra Churchill   | Charlottesville      |
| Brooke Davis        | Richmond             |
| Kimberly Doll-DeSha | Baltimore, Stony Run |
| Natalie Finegar     | Sandy Spring         |
| Gary Gillespie      | Homewood             |
| Nathan Harrington   | Sandy Spring         |
| Mark Haskell        | Washington           |
| Nathan Harrington   | Sandy Spring         |
| Ann Honn            | Sandy Spring         |
| Alex Jadin          | Washington           |
| Elizabeth Krome     | Williamsburg         |
| Joshua Riley        | Hopewell Centre      |
| Rex Riley           | Frederick            |
| Katy Schutz         | Charlottesville      |
| Harry Scott         | York                 |

#### Ex Officio:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Jane Megginson  | Camp Program Manager |
| Dyresha Harris  | Co-Director, CQC     |
| Kathrin Gilbert | Co-Director, CQC     |
| Elaine Brigham  | Director, OQC        |
| Hope Swank      | Director, SQC        |
| Jesse Austell   | Co-Director, TA      |
| Jen Schneider   | Co-Director, TA      |

### Camp Property Management

Ronald Lord and Alene Carteret  
co-clerks

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Alene Carteret        | Homewood     |
| Don Crawford          | Valley       |
| David Diller          | Adelphi      |
| Thomas Gibian         | Sandy Spring |
| Steve Hendrix-Jenkins | Washington   |
| Stephen Keach         | Sandy Spring |
| Ronald Lord           | Sandy Spring |
| Kate Meaker           | Sandy Spring |
| Frannie Taylor        | Goose Creek  |

#### Ex Officio:

David Hunter  
Camp Property Manager

## 2013 BYM Camps Year in Review

Jane Megginson, Camp Program Manager  
This was an exciting season for the camps. We enrolled record numbers of campers in 2013! I credit this increased enrollment to several factors: changes in our advertising, increased efforts by staff and the Camping Program Committee (CPC) to host open houses in the off season, the new pond at Shiloh, and more confidence in the economy by consumers. Shiloh had a record number of campers this year, and little staff turnover. This is just what we hoped would happen if we built a pond there.



Shiloh campers are raising chickens

The focus on increasing racial diversity at our camps by the CPC and concerned alumni has paid off. We are seeing a significant increase in campers of color at all of our residential camps. Since 2008, Catoclin has gone from having only 15% of campers of color to the current 22%. Shiloh and Opequon increased from 20% to 24%.

These changes in the diversity of our campers are the fruits of hard work. Our staff, alumni, and people in the Yearly Meeting have donated money, and others have introduced kids to the camp experience by taking camper recruits on hiking trips to familiarize them with the songs, culture, and physical layout of camp. In particular, I would like to thank Alison Duncan, Dyresha Harris, Nathan Harrington, and Jennifer Schneider. Alison has been tireless in her efforts to raise money for the Philadelphia campers to attend Catoclin – she has applied for and received several grants, and hosted many events in

her efforts to make sure these campers are funded. We appreciate a grant from the Bama Works Fund that sent four Charlottesville area campers to Shiloh and funded their gear. Thanks to the Meetings and individual donors who have generously supported the Camping Program.

We are committed to increasing the pay for our camp staff. The counselors at our camps make well below the national average for this work—high school staff start at \$1,100 and college staff start at \$1,500 for an eight-week commitment in the summer. Average starting pay for counselors at other camps is \$2,000. We have been working to increase the pay of our camp staff over the years and the current pay actually reflects increases over time.

We are always trying to balance keeping our camps affordable versus charging enough to cover the actual costs of running them. At many camps, this comes to \$100-150 a day per camper. We charge about \$85 a day. The way we are able to do so is by underpaying our staff and keeping our properties very rustic.



TA photo by David Hunter

Many counselors seek other summer jobs rather than



continue working for us because they need to make more money. Our longer-term counselors and staff develop important skills and abilities as they gain more experience. If we lose them after only one or two summers, we lose their experience and skills as well. In addition, it is much harder for potential staff members from families who are not middle-class or wealthier to work for us since they often need to make more money to pay for their education or basic needs. We would like to make sure that potential staff can work for us regardless of their social/economic class. So paying a fairer wage to our staff has become a pressing goal for the Camping Program Committee (CPC) and myself over the next few years. In light of this goal, the CPC has raised the rates at the camps for this coming summer by \$25 per week. We will continue to increase the rates incrementally over time, to both make sure we can pay our staff a fair wage and keep up with the changes in the cost of goods such as food, gas, utilities, and supplies.

Another change for the coming season is overhauling the medical forms for campers and staff by collecting this information online. Three reasons for this are: 1) convenience for our camp families – the records from the year before will be kept online in their account so they do not need to start from scratch every year; 2) safety for the campers – the forms will be more legible when printed out

rather than hand written, and 3) we can track if the forms have been completely filled out before camp starts. This system may also allow the medical staff to review records before campers are dropped off so they can prepare questions they need to ask particular families to get the most complete information. It should also help speed up camper check in on drop off days.

We have much to do for the coming season and going forward, and we have accomplished a lot. We weathered a difficult economic downturn. We are stronger now for having gone through it. We are increasing our diversity of campers – now we need to work harder to include diverse staff. There is always more we can do to improve our camps and the

experience of our camps. Please let me know if there is something you have thought of that would make our camps better!

The camp experience is a rich and widely-shared intergenerational one, and I'd like to express gratitude to all who participate in any way. This includes the camp directors who work throughout the year, the Camping Program Committee members and other volunteers, all of the many adult work granters who toil in the kitchens, infirmaries and grounds at the camps, and also to the BYM Comptroller Margo Lehman for all of her work on the numbers. Your stories about your own or family members participation at our camps are moving and powerful. Keep sharing them!

## Camper-eye View of Opequon

Schuyler Barefoot and Madeline Clissold  
One of our favorite parts of summer camp at Opequon was the art pavilion. It was fun to paint rocks! We made fairy houses out of rocks, pipe cleaners, tape, glitter, and stuff on the ground. The dress-up closet was very fun, too. There were a lot of dresses. The food was delicious! Our favorite foods were the pasta and the pancakes. It was fun to swim in the pool. Also, making candles was fun. The workshops were cool. One of them was greening camp (making camp greener). Our favorite thing to do was rest period, because we got to hang out with each other. It was fun to throw pillows at D.J., one of the counselors. The dance party was super fun, with loud music!

The camp was divided up into groups, with really cool names. We would each help clean up camp. We met a lot of fun people. Making friends was the best part of camp definitely. Our counselors were named Rachel, Olivia, and Liberty. When Olivia came back from break, we threw her a party! Each of the counselors got a break for a couple of days, and Liber-

ty got an unexpected break because she got a cut.

Our favorite fire circle was graduation. Graduation is when there is a



camp photo by Donna Jesse

ceremony for the oldest person or people in Unit One (the oldest group) because it is their last time at Opequon. The campout was wet and scary. They should keep a battery powered radio, and know that the weather is coming. Other than the bad part, camp was pretty fun!

Madeline and Schuyler were first-time campers in 2011. They both went for one week, and they knew each other a little bit before they went to camp. Both are going for two weeks this summer!

# Forks and Spoons

Hope Swank, Shiloh Quaker Camp Director  
To break up the in-camp time at Shiloh and keep things exciting, the staff plans a "special day" every two weeks. Special day is a complete secret for the campers until the day it occurs. I would like to tell you about one of our special days this summer, which was full of surprises even for the staff that planned it.

As the day began, the campers woke up to counselors screaming "forks! forks! forks!" and "spoons! spoons! spoons!" outside their cabins. They might not have thought too much of this because at any given meal campers and counselors will periodically stand up on their benches and yell "forks!", "spoons!", "cups!" "time doesn't exist!" or other catchy camp slogan-y things.

At breakfast the campers entered to find the whole Thunderdome (dining hall) decorated with red, white, and blue. It should be noted that the shopping for this special day happened on July 5th. During the meal, the candidates for the Fork party and the Spoon Party, introduced themselves and their running mates and spouses. Everyone registered to vote during cleanup, and all had the option of choosing the fork party, the spoon party, independent, or other.

By the time Meeting for Worship started, the campers were already decked out with various party regalia, including sandwich board signs, tattoos, and my favorite, a pink construction hat on which was written "workers for spoons." Lina Mistitzis, our in-camp staff member who orga-



camp photo by Sarah Acuff

nized most of the day, asked a query which went something like, "forks and spoons aside, what do you stand for?" This resulted in thought-provoking comments from campers, visitors, cooks, and staff members. It was a nice respite from the polarized and passionate shouting/screaming for one's choice of cutlery which had been going on since breakfast.

Next, the whole camp gathered for a town-hall style debate moderated by counselor Peter McNally. The personalities of the two candidates as well as their party platforms soon became clear. The spoons stood for unity (circle metaphor), wholesomeness and tradition, while the forks appeared to be more cutting edge, encouraging voters to "get with the tines." Spoon candidate Jamie DeMarco claimed that a vote for spoons was a vote for everyone, and promised that if he was president, all cutlery would be available at every meal. One counselor's question implied that Mr. DeMarco was out of touch with the campers and counselors who were part of work crews (that's everyone). Wouldn't that mean more dishes to do after every meal?

During rest period, counselor Katie Lauck and I visited each of the cabins to collect rough polling results. These were then published by expert grapher Stephen Moliterno. Predictably, cabins who had a presidential candidate for a counselor leaned heavily towards that party. At this time there were several third parties including sporks, knives, and chopsticks. A few of the counselors were trying to start an anarchist movement by using hands only.

Afternoon activities were election themed. One group of campers learned how to lobby. I was handed several petitions with requests/demands including the removal of Shiloh's strict shoe-



camp photo by Sarah Acuff

wearing policy, a request that gorp contain more M&M's, and lifting the ban on the petting of the neighbors' dogs.

Other campers and counselors made elaborate party decorations and placards. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, campers and counselors met to discuss the unification of the third parties. They ended up forming a coalition under the banner of "Swiss Army Hand" and nominating 14-year-old Gabe Udell as the presidential candidate and 12-year-old Chicken Legs for vice president. The swiss army hand is a hand that has every piece of cutlery for fingers.

Due to the third party's unification, candidates Udell and Legs were allowed to participate in the afternoon's Chocolate Cake debates. The cake was actually vanilla, decorated by Lina with her favorite pattern, an American flag. Mr. Legs's last words in the vice presidential debate are still ringing in my ears. He encouraged all the campers to vote for the party which best represented them and emphasized the importance of being the "only group at Shiloh that isn't getting paid."

For most of the day, I had tried to remain silent about my politics because I felt it was my duty as director to let things run their course without pressure from above. (I had announced at lunch that I endorsed spoons, but it was only because the table I was asking for seconds from made me do it.) At chocolate cake, I was just too inspired to remain quiet any longer.

I stood under the Shady Tree and spoke of inspiration and integrity with great oratorical prowess. I said that under our current two-party system people in this country often feel forced to vote for a candidate whose views they don't totally agree with. But at Shiloh, with the creation and acceptance of a camper-led third party, voters might have a chance to vote their conscience. Maybe Shiloh could be a model for the rest of us!

Chocolate cake activities involved more hooting and hollering, but it was clear Swiss Army Hand was gaining momentum. The vote happened at dinner with somewhere around 60 votes for Swiss Army Hand, and almost exactly 20 each for spoons and forks. The Thunderdome went

wild! After dinner, everyone rushed through their chores to prepare for our first ever inaugural ball.

Our care taker, Jake Butler and his band set up in the art pavillion and we held the party just outside. Jacob Martin played a few awesome original songs as the happy voters danced and hula hooped the night away.

Lizzie Givens and Jamie DeMarco interrupted the music with some lovely, heartfelt concession speeches. Then it was time for Mr. Udell and Mr. Legs to step up and officially accept the Presidency and Vice Presidency. For his speech, Mr. Udell paid homage to his idol Charlie Brown and, rather



camp photo by Sarah Acuff

than using words, made the talking/honking sound that you can hear in the Christmas movie.

We ended the day on this high point and then began singing each cabin to bed. The next day things were back to "normal" at Shiloh.

## Camp Alumni Gathering 2013

September 20 to 22 saw the annual Camp Alumni Reunion. The reunions serve to reconnect with old friends, experience the magic of the camp experience with our families, re-center our spirits, and give a little financial boost to the BYM Camping Program.

A magical early Autumn feeling settled upon Catoctin Mountain during the weekend, typical for the time of year; some rain, some sun, a stiff breeze rustling through the trees. September is a unique season at camp, one that seems to incite a slower, more meditative experience, an appreciation of nature just before repose, a touch of pining over youthful years long gone, a stillness after the exhilaration of the summer.

There was a good turnout by a range of alumni, some of whom attended camp from as far back as the early 1960s, to those 4 and 5 year olds who will be alumni in 2028. Events included swimming and canoeing in the Goon, a rainy night spent in the lodge by the fire place recounting stories and singing songs, morning and afternoon activities (including a scavenger hunt, bottle rocket making, fire building at the fire circle,

writing and drawing comics, candle boat making, hiking to coffee hollow, and the demolition of an old cabin). Meetings for worship were held by the fire circle. Responsibility for ringing the bell throughout the weekend was assumed by a bunch of pre-campers led by Barrett Oaks Bugler, who also tested the bell between meals and events just to make sure it was in proper working condition. The four socio-economic groups, granite, limestone, gneiss and schist, were well staffed with a range of ages and experience, all of whom stood and sang in solidarity for the washing of the dishes and kitchen duty.

And of course there was food; but mind ye, far from ordinary. The cuisine was masterminded by Tina, a professional chef and Andrew Diemels' mom. The meals were fantastic. The anticipation for each warning bell grew exponentially throughout the weekend, as every meal was sophisticated and expertly crafted, appeasing both the base appetites of the opportunistic omnivore and

the diverse dietary needs of many a modern Friend. Tina will be returning to lead the kitchen for next year's reunion.

The 2014 Reunion will be held on the weekend of August 22-24, so set aside the date, or simply wait for the Alumni Committee to send you a panicky barrage of alerts and reminders a month before the event. Either way, spread the word throughout the year to any alumni who may not be on our contact list. We would like to reach out to more alumni from the early years (1922 through to the early 80's), as well as entice younger alumni to attend. A link to the Alumni webpage can be found on the BYM Camps website main page.



alumni photo by Alan Williams

## Upgrades and Improvements to camps

Camp Plans continued on page 6

### Bathhouses

Plans to replace the bathhouses at Catoctin are developing. The first phase will involve building a structure which will house eight composting toilets. This will reduce the load on our aging septic system, reduce water use at Catoctin, and provide useful compost and fertilizer. We will maintain the composters in the off-season, and little or no maintenance will be necessary during the camping season. Additional replacement structures will be built to house showers and sinks. These will be connected to the building that houses the composting toilets. We look forward to using local building materials and energy-efficient tankless hot water heaters in these structures.



### Opequon Quaker Camp A New, Old Kitchen

The "Old Kitchen" at Opequon is currently being used as a laundry room and storage area. This worn structure will be replaced in 2014. By moving this structure slightly, we will be able to cover the well (making it possible to get water on the site in the winter) and create space for an office area and storage. This will also give the roof exposure to the sun that will allow us to install solar panels to supply over 60% of our annual demand.

### Shower Houses

A shower house at Opequon is being planned. It will be divided into areas for boys and girls and will have private changing areas as well as

shower stalls. Waste water from the showers will be treated using a gray water treatment system. A solar pre-heating system is being considered as part of the hot water system and energy-efficient tankless hot water heaters will be used.

We hope to use parts of the post and beam frame of the building that was donated to the camping program through York Friends Meeting. The joinery was done by a Friend in the York area and all the beams are made of local lumber. We will use as many local materials as possible in the construction of this building.

### Shiloh Quaker Camp A New Cabin at Shiloh

We replaced one of the cabins known as the Boxwoods this year. The location was moved from the driveway into the woods that are below the new pond. The dark and dank 14 by 14 foot structure was replaced with a larger 16 by 24 foot cabin. We were very pleased with the result. We are grateful to Shiloh caretaker Jake Butler for removing the old cabin, preparing the site for construction, and helping to oversee the work.

### Solar Energy at Shiloh

We are looking at a solar installation at Shiloh. One of the concepts being discussed would create open pavilions or arbors under which activities could be held. The solar panels would be housed on the roof of the pavilion. One location might replace the current Art Pavilion, which is an aging structure.

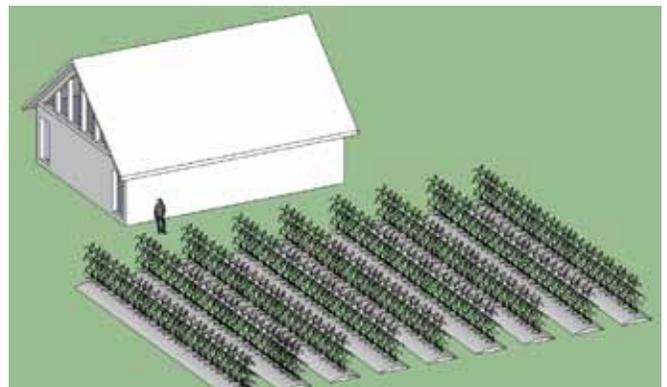
### Fundraising and Development

The Yearly Meeting and the wider camp community have done a wonderful job of raising resources for capital projects. In addition to continuing to replace aging structures and undertaking major maintenance projects, we were able to construct a pond at



Shiloh that continues to transform the camping program there. However, revenues raised fell short of the budgeted amount by more than \$29,000 in 2012 and will fall well short of the budgeted goal of \$55,000 in 2013. It will be necessary for projects scheduled for the remainder of 2013 and 2014 to be significantly curtailed since camp capital reserves are diminishing quickly.

Friends will have noted that most of the new projects described above might be said to "Lean toward the Green." It has been exciting and challenging to plan for the future of the camps with an eye towards sustainable energy, protecting natural resources, and educating those who come to the camps about some of the choices we can make that will secure the best future possible for our planet. Reducing or eliminating





raise a generation of Friends that will be well prepared to build a future that restores the health of the planet.

### **Friends Service Weekends**

Friends Service Weekends continue to be a real pleasure. Camp Families and Friends gather at the camps in the spring and fall. We always have a great time getting to know each other

energy costs for the future, lowering maintenance expenses, and reducing the amount of capital that will be needed to replace aging, traditional systems (septic systems, electrical, heating, water, etc.) are the right fiscal choices as well as the best choices to make for the planet.

Camp is the perfect place to inspire, educate, and model simple, sensible technologies that will make a difference in the world. At camp, community members learn about the potential of humanity, the Spirit, and what Friends living in a loving community can accomplish. When we couple this with seeing sustainable technologies in action we have an opportunity to

and working together to make improvements in these places that are so important to us. These weekends also provide a great opportunity for people to visit the properties and enjoy some of the gifts the places have to give.

This work is a critical part of maintaining the properties. I hope participation will grow so that more can be done during these weekends. In 2013 we reduced the number of Friends Service Weekends we offered and this has resulted in a change if the nature of the work we are able to do with volunteers. In the past we have been able to focus more of our volunteer's efforts on construction

projects. This year we have focused our energy on maintenance projects, removing buildings that will be replaced and preparing sites for new cabins. This has meant that we have begun to shift to hiring contractors to take on more work. Projects such as constructing new cabins and other structures at camp cannot be done in one weekend and are no longer suitable for Friends Service Weekends.

The spring Friends Service Weekends will be: Catoctin: May 3 – 4; Shiloh: May 17 – 18; and Opequon: May 31 – June 1. Fall Weekends are planned as: Opequon: September 20 – 21; Catoctin: October 18 – 19; and Shiloh: October 25 – 26.

### **Finally**

It is a joy and an honor to be a part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and to have the opportunity to help care for these sacred places that serve such life-changing programs. Helping to create a vision of how we want to make the necessary improvements at the camps has been challenging and exciting work. I look forward to seeing these projects more forward as way opens.

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## **Why Do We Need Greening In BYM?**

BYM Development Committee

You might be thinking, "In summer the camps are very green already!" But we want the whole world to be beautifully green as well, and climate change is starting to make some other places look kind of dead. What's our part in all of this, and how can we make real progress?

When the Yearly Meeting came together to build Shiloh Pond, it was an example of what can be accomplished when we have a vision and work together to achieve it. And now we love it.

We now have an opportunity to take responsibility for our energy footprint. Stewardship of our natural resources is part of Quaker tradition. What's more, you've been heard!

The Capital Plan was presented for the first time at Annual Session this year, and the feedback that comes from summer camp evaluations on facilities was incorporated, so the greening plan aims to fix longstanding problems that you have reported. While we are all making the world a better place and renovating, we can save money on our energy budget.

There have been wind studies at Catoctin. Opequon and Shiloh are looking at solar projects. New bath houses will have plans for gray water uses and composting toilets. We also have studies on highly efficient heating systems for the BYM office as well as new windows that would cut energy use.

So we're going to make green even greener, and share a better world! Next year, and in future years, we'll be asking you for help.





camp photo by Jenifer Morris

## Why I Cook at Camp

By David Johnson

*There are a lot of reasons why I like to cook at Camp Shiloh (aka the Krome Culinary Institute) and this brief list is an attempt to write some of them down.*

When I'm at camp working as a cook, I am away from home and can't worry about the usual junk that I am concerned about—all of that stuff is irrelevant! I am just trying to survive and do the best job I can! So while I may be physically exhausted, I am not emotionally tired from the things I worry about at home.

In that vein, I am with a different group of people in a different place than usual, and I see and hear different opinions and different ideas floating around that I may not hear/see in my regular life. After all, the camp is run by Quakers! I rest my case.

I enjoy the opportunity to learn about foods and cooking, and to hear what others are interested in and doing, both in their 'real' lives and in camp. I think I first heard about Michael Pollan's writings while in camp, and have been following him and his work, as well as many others who are concerned about our modern foodways and their decline.

Cooking at Shiloh gives practice in cooking really good fresh food and thinking about where it came from and who is providing it. My wife and I do this pretty well already, but this

is emphasized while at camp. (Note that there are only two of us at home now, so learning how to cook for 50 is not directly relevant! But ideas about freshness and spices are always welcome.)

I like the challenge of camping and seeing if my planning and arrangements are working out as I hoped, so

that I am comfortable and ready to work. This year my air mattress didn't spring any leaks, but I made a mistake in footwear the first day and ended up with some blisters that took a week to heal. My tent didn't leak and I slept well every night!

I enjoy the community of cooks, camp staff, and campers, and the ways that we support each other and look out for each other to achieve our goal of great food all the time. (Sometimes after I leave camp I go into a crying jag when it hits me that I'm missing this community.) This sense of community is very powerful and gives a lot of support (I think) to everyone and helps us do our best, even when we're dog tired and there are fifty<sup>3</sup>-leven leftovers on the counter that need to be put away, or the floor needs to be mopped.

I like to support the camp and its director and staff to continue to provide outstanding experiences to the young campers. I think they are providing experiences that the campers may not appreciate until they are older, but are important, and important to have them available during a time of decline in food

habits and activity habits in the wider society.

In this vein, the camp staff are providing an important education to the campers and showing how true education can be done and what it looks like. As a member of a university faculty, I am often painfully aware that many of the practices on my campus are bureaucratic BS and are designed to feather someone's nest or advance a career (especially that of the administrators) and have no real relationship to actually helping the students learn anything.

By supporting the counselors and staff I was helping them learn leadership skills and get experiences that will be useful for them for their lives. After all, anyone who can plan, organize, and execute a successful hike with a bunch of young people is learning logistics, planning, organizing and leadership skills that are in short supply in the world!

Since my daughters have completed Shiloh and TA and gone on to their own lives, I am donating my time to the camp so that some young person will have a chance to be at Shiloh who might not otherwise be able to attend, so that is my way of spreading joy!

When the week is over, I can also say that 'it feels so good to stop' and recover from the experience!

If you have any other reasons why you are cooking at Shiloh, let me know so I can add them to my list!



camp photo by Jenifer Morris

# BYM Quakers, Camping for Over 90 Years!

Jane Megginson, Camp Program Manager  
Many of us know that we have had a camping program in Baltimore Yearly Meeting for a long time. Almost everyone in Baltimore Yearly Meeting associates camp with Catoctin Quaker Camp. Catoctin celebrated it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008! However, the Yearly Meeting's history with a summer camping program for youth does not start at Catoctin. The Yearly Meeting first had an associated camp starting in 1922 along the South River in Anne Arundel County called Keewadin. Keewadin was started by individuals in the Yearly Meeting from Baltimore. Keewadin served campers from all over the Yearly Meeting with summer programming, FGC Leadership Training Institute, BYM Young Friends Conferences and Family Camps.

"A young people's camp took place in June, while families could use it in July and August. Numerous conferences, picnics, and outings were held there as well. The camp remained in use until 1953. It has remained the happy summer place in many Friends' memories. Bliss and LaVerne Forbush and Mary Blackburn served as camp leaders for about 20 years." From Minute by Minute, A history of the Baltimore Monthly Meetings of Friends Homewood



Camp Keewadin, circa 1941

and Stony Run, Barbara C. Mal-lonee, Jane Karkalits Bonny, and Nicholas B. Fessenden, 1992.

Keewadin was sold in 1953, due to encroaching development and other problems with the site. Before Catoctin was bought and after Keewadin was sold, camp sessions were held at the 4-H grounds in Maryland.

Fifty years ago, a group of Friends in Baltimore Yearly Meeting got together and purchased the option to buy a property in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland that we now call Catoctin Quaker Camp. In April of 1958 the purchase of Catoctin was finalized. Immediately, the industrious group that purchased the property (later to become known as the Catoctin Trustees) got the property ready to hold camp during the last two weeks of August, 1958.

A new well provides adequate, safe water. A water pump, distribution lines, and a hot water heater (for the kitchen only) have been supplied. A good sewer system adequate for expanded facilities is completed. Two modern wash houses contain adequate sanitary and washing facilities for a camp capacity of at least 80 persons. The kitchen has been modernized and conforms with Health Department requirements. Modest but pleasant swimming is available. Eight rustic shelters with canvas roofs have been built. These things have been accomplished despite the handicap of an unusually wet season.

Looking ahead, we feel the pressing need of a sizeable wing to the lodge to serve as a dining-recreation room. For adult conferences or retreats we should have

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some simple cabins for shelter. Further in the future, an attractive three-acre lake seems a practical possibility. Excerpted from Report to Baltimore Yearly Meetings of Catoctin Quaker Camp, Inc, August 1958, Ross W. Sanderson, Jr., Chairman

The property was acquired for \$26,600 and the above mentioned development costs were over \$8000. The bath houses built at that time for around 80 people are still in use today being used by many more at peak consumption. The swimming pond that was eventually made is about one third of an acre, not the dreamed of three acre lake. In 1958, the dining hall wing was completed, to seat 100 people.

During our first year of ownership the camp property was used during the year by 21 groups for a total of 72 days. The use of Catoctin for meetings and retreats remains popular today. All three of our properties are regularly rented when not in use for the camping season. The camp sessions have expanded from two weeks

Camp History continued on page 10

## BYM Camps grew in the 80s and 90s

Camp History continued from page 9 to six weeks for campers, with an additional three weeks of staff development. In 1960, 80 campers attended camp at Catoctin, 40 campers each week. This past summer, 168 campers with 74 or more at any given session.

But wait, there's more... many of us young whippersnappers are saying what about Shiloh, Opequon, and Teen Adventure? Yes, Friends, the camping program has expanded several times since the late 1970s. The first expansion took place in 1978 when after adding sessions at Catoctin and overflowing them repeatedly, a new camp was started in Virginia at the Glaydin School in Lucketts Virginia. Due to a dormitory fire the

next year, Glaydin moved to the Opequon Creek property that is a part of the Pidgeon farm in Brucetown Virginia. This is the site of the current Opequon Quaker Camp but not the same program! Also in 1979, the first trip for teens was offered: the New England Caravan trip. Different trips were offered for teens over the next several years. In 1982 the program was christened Teen Adventure (TA) and had such great demand they expanded to two trips running simultaneously. By 1986, the demand for TA had grown even more and three trips were run.



Opequon Quaker Camp, circa 1987, by Sue DeVeer



Sheila Bach, director of Glaydin Quaker Camp

In 1987, Opequon Quaker Camp had to move to a site down the hill from the current site – for all of you current campers that would be the area around the swimming pool. This site was open, unshaded, and a floodplain. I can still remember rest

period under those hot blue tarps – you could have gone from tarp to tarp rolling the campers and basting them! The toilets never flushed fully and would overflow several times a day. Every year we would have to rebuild the bathhouses and pull the toilets out of the creek where they would end up after the annual flooding! Still camp continued on at Opequon cheerfully, expanding with the growing needs of the Yearly Meeting and others flocking to our camping program.

Due to the difficulties with this site, we began searching for a better place to hold camp that the Yearly Meeting could own. In 1992, we found that site near Stanardsville Virginia in the foothills of the beautiful Shenandoah Mountains at a camp owned by the



# Quaker Camp Changed My Life

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Church of the Brethren called Shiloh. We bought Shiloh and that is how Opequon Quaker Camp became Shiloh Quaker Camp.

Some of you out there are probably scratching your heads about now and saying to yourself, but we still have an Opequon Quaker Camp. That is so, but for several years from 1992-1999, we did not! In 1997, all of the Yearly Meeting camps, Catoc-tin, Shiloh and Teen Adventure, were full and had a waiting list of campers wanting to get in. So in 1998, the Religious Education Committee of the Yearly Meeting started an arts camp that was held on the campus of Sandy Spring Friends School. In 1999, the arts camp was moved under the care of the Camping Program Committee and in 2000 the Quaker Arts Camp moved to its current location at the top of the hill on the Pidgeon Farm at Opequon. The name of the camp was later changed to Opequon Quaker Camp. In 2001 Opequon increased sessions from 3 weeks to 5 weeks. Now Opequon runs for 6 weeks, like Shiloh and Catoc-tin.

For many years, Teen Adventure ran 4 trips but after increasing our resi-

dential camps, more campers were graduating and wanted to attend TA. In 2002, 6 trips were offered for Teen Adventure campers. In 2007, 8 trips were offered. That number of hiking trips was too many to run, so in 2011, BYM Camps launched TA Bike trips in addition to the traditional TA option.



Shiloh Splash Celebration, photo by David Hunter

good in terms of the largest enrollment there ever and the highest number of returning staff.



Catoc-tin campers in 2012, photo by Jenifer Morris

What strikes me most in researching the history of the camping program of BYM is how integral a part of the Yearly Meeting it has been for over 90 years. The vision and commitment of members of the Yearly Meeting to this type of programming, to the development of religious education of our youth through camp, and the faith of members of the Yearly Meeting to make great leaps in support of this program has been

In 2012, Shiloh got a great new feature, a pond. The Yearly Meeting, camper families, and others raised nearly \$100,000 to add this much needed and anticipated feature to what is arguably our hottest site.

consistent. The Camping Program of BYM has affected the lives of thousands of campers over the past 91 years, not to mention the staff of our camps, and families that participate in retreats. Many campers become active participants in the Religious Society of Friends because of their involvement in our camps. Sometimes entire families start attending meeting after a child comes back from camp enthusiastic about the insights gained and spiritual practices begun after a summer or two at camp.

The new pond is situated nicely between the dining hall and the firecircle area at Shiloh. It was hoped that the pond would increase camper enrollment at Shiloh and staff retention and contentment. The past few years at Shiloh have been very

I don't know where our Camping Program will take us next, but I await the changes with interest, excitement, and an open heart, knowing Way Opens.



Teen Adventure campers, 1991

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**See page 9**

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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.

## **2014 Camp Season Enrollment Begins January 15**

Camp registration will open Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 pm for returning campers. Starting Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 am, 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 first-time attenders at camp, please sign up for a work grant the first week your child is attending camp if possible!

