



púr·pose

Why We Do What We Do

The purpose of Tel Hai Mennonite Camp is to own and operate a year around church camp/retreat center which strives to nurture and evangelize persons of all ages. It shall endeavor to encourage in each person commitment to Christ, spiritual growth, interpersonal relationships, Christian discipleship, and appreciation of nature."

From Article IV of Tel Hai Association Bylaws

COMING EVENTS

April-May
Homeschool Classes—Canoeing & Archery

April 15-17
Tel Hai Scrapbooking Weekend

April 18
Spring Celebration—Shady Maple

May 7
Tel Hai Work Day

May 20-22
Mother/Daughter Spring Getaway

June 9
Tel Hai Golf Tournament

June 22-25
Dad & Lad Camp

August 1-5
Adventure Camp

Visit telhaicamp.org for more details about these events



Dad & Lad Camp – Some things don't fit on an itinerary by Bob Fell

Last year was the first time I brought my three sons to Dad & Lad Camp at Tel Hai. I thought I knew what to expect...after all I read the brochure and the on-line material. I even had an itinerary. There were a lot of activities planned, and I knew the boys and I would have a great time.

There is truly something for everyone. One son loved the archery and the putt-putt, another son loved the BB guns and the zip line, and my third loved the crafts. But it became clear to

me that it wasn't just "doing stuff" that made the time at Tel Hai different. We "do stuff" all the time. It was the moments in between that stick out. While walking from one place to another or hanging out after lunch at the dining table for a few minutes—just a few special moments—that is when my sons and I connected better than we had for a while.

Tel Hai seems designed to create such moments. It helped me to slow down and see my sons again rather than just staring at a long to-do list. Some of our best memories came from hanging out in the cabin and playing games at night or sitting on a tree stump on a trail in the woods.

Don't get me wrong; the program and the activities are fantastic, but for me it was the unplanned moments my boys and I needed most. I found that, after a couple of days, I was walking the long way around to get places so the boys and I could talk a little more, which is very unlike me. Normally, I'm the guy who knows the quickest way to get anywhere.

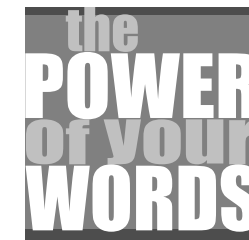
I believe that God can show up most when we leave room for him. I believe this, but sometimes I have trouble living it. Dad & Lad Camp at Tel Hai was a great reminder of what God can do when you leave some room in your itinerary.



www.telhaicamp.org

TEL HAI CAMP & RETREAT

31 Lasso Drive, Honey Brook, PA 19344-9261, tel: 610-273-3969



Has a friend ever recommended a restaurant, making you want to check it out?

Have you ever enjoyed a movie or vacation so much that you wanted others to have the same experience?

The words we share with people have power and influence. In the marketing world this is called word-of-mouth advertising, but in the real world it is simply people sharing things they care about with others.

The research we recently completed with past guests shows that the most common way that someone came to Tel Hai was through a referral. It wasn't a mailer, or a newsletter, or the website (although these do help). It was people telling people about the experiences they had at Tel Hai.

Please keep Tel Hai in mind as you interact with your friends, family and church. Share your Tel Hai experiences with others, especially if you think we could bless them as well. Your friends welcome your recommendations, and we would welcome all your referrals.

• MOP • SHOVEL • WHEELBARROW • HAMMER • CLEAN • WHEELBARRO • SHOVEL • MOP

WORKDAY

May 7

Mark your calendar and join us!

• CLEAN • SHOVEL • RAKE • BROOM

We said our “good-bye’s” recently to 2010. My, how quickly it seems we greet each new year! January is the time when Americans hear the President’s “State of the Union,” getting a status report on our country. I would like to share a brief “state of the camp.” This summer was the sixtieth summer of ministry here at Tel Hai. I heard from some of those who were here that first summer as they remembered exactly what they were facing. Isn’t it exciting to see what God has done since that beginning? God has blessed. Interestingly, we currently have three children of “founders” sitting on the camp board. Since that first day, another ministry has grown and separated from the camp (Tel Hai Retirement Community), and we have so many friends and association members who reside across the street from the camp at the retirement community.

God has blessed us again this past year. We have been able to minister to nearly 6,000 different people. That is like a small city that has come through our doors. We have been blessed to serve groups as large as 170.

Why are we here? The mission of Tel Hai Camp & retreat is “to encourage all to be followers of Jesus Christ and to provide a special place where people can meet with God and God can meet with people.” Let me report to you that we are being true to this purpose. I am aware of at least 20 kids who placed their faith in Christ this past Summer. AMEN? That *is* why we are here. We know of hundreds of other life-changing decisions and commitments that have been made. I have heard some of

them. For some kids, it was dealing with issues of habits/addictions that they felt were not honoring God. For others, it was coming face to face with difficult and troubling home situations and finding grace from God to deal with these challenges of life. What an opportunity we have here on this acreage to provide “that special place where people can meet with God and God can meet with people.” For many, this past year was a life-transforming time. Thank you for your part in this!

We have had challenges, but we have seen God at work. We had plumbing issues, personality conflicts, and even the death of one of our guests during his time here, but God knew we would be facing these issues and we truly believe HE is still in control. He is still working mightily in all of our lives.

This year we have added a GAGA pit (type of dodgeball), some new challenge course elements, additional showers and a bathroom in Spruce lodge, and made renovations in House 17 and several other needed repairs on the campus. We are seeing increased need to address updating the grounds as they have seen extensive usage and are beginning to show it.

I am **thankful** for each of you who faithfully give to the camp. I also want to say how thankful I am for our staff members, each one seeking to be a faithful steward of the money given to this ministry and to use God-given gifts to serve Him. Pray with us as we move forward! We close the books on our sixtieth year and are excited about what lies ahead. May God lead the way, **and may we follow in step....**



WISH LIST

- One “stable” rowboat
- Commercial-grade cordless drill
- Resin or vinyl-coated outdoor pool chairs
- Picnic tables—two octagonal, others straight
- Gas-powered pole pruner
- Golf cart/utility vehicle for campus use (Because of the size of our campus, we could make effective use of two for programming and facilities.)
- A car (small, good MPG) that can be used by staff for running errands to the hardware store, market, and for other business
- Volunteers to help in kitchen on Saturdays and Sundays during retreat season and volunteers willing to help mow lawns

*If you can provide any of these items or services, please contact the Tel Hai Camp office by e-mail (admin@telhaicamp.org) or phone (610-273-3969). **Thanks** to those who have already given toward these specific needs.*



work at a Christian summer camp, which began with a three-week leadership training program. During those

As I look back—say, 28 years ago—I see a young, geeky, quiet high school kid who, while he accepted Christ at a very young age, was beginning to

entertain some doubts about God. Did He really exist, and if He did, did He really care? God wasn’t concerned because He had a plan for this young fellow. In 1983 God responded to faithful prayer and showed that He could keep His children safe as they traveled through a blizzard on the way to a youth retreat. The following summer, this high school boy decided to

three weeks, he learned the importance of reading the Bible, praying, training and discipline, and working together with other believers as a team. The pinnacle moment of this training came on a small island in the middle of the Delaware River. During a time of fasting and prayer, he experienced the presence of God beside him on that river. **MY** life has never been the same.

God used a youth retreat and summer camp to change my life and to impress His call on my future. I have been involved in the camping ministry ever since, and in 1992 I was baptized and committed myself to full time camping ministry. It has been a great 18 years. I have been so blessed to see so many lives impacted for Jesus through camp. A highlight from last year came at the beginning of the summer. I barely had the pool ready when one of the weekend retreat groups asked to have a baptism at the pool. As the lifeguard, I was so totally blessed to be a witness to this baptism. Although the whole service was in Chinese, I felt the presence of God once again, and I knew in my heart what was being expressed by these young believers. Praise the Lord for how He works in each of our lives. May Tel Hai Camp continue to be a “Hill of Life” to all who come.

A Measurement from the Camp Board
by Herb Benner, Board President

Another transition has taken place, and we offer our deep thanks to Paul Stoltzfus (7 years) and Bruce Eby (5 years) who have both moved off the Tel Hai Camp board. We are deeply grateful for their service to the camp and to the Lord. We welcome Bob Byler back to the board as well as Mary Elvin and Aden Stoltzfus, who are new to the board. We are excited about what they will bring to the board and to the ongoing ministry at Tel Hai Camp & Retreat.

These past two years we have been happy to welcome six families as new Tel Hai Camp Association members, including the Geigers, Brookeses, Muthards, Andersons, Hertzlers, and Beilers. We welcome each of them and appreciate the tangible step they have each taken to support the ministry of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat.

Have you considered taking this step of support? We welcome your inquiry. For more information on becoming an association member, contact Gregg Horst by e-mail at admin@telhaicamp.org or call 610.273.3969.

Thank You Volunteers!

Cabin Challenge Update

A \$5,000 gift was given recently toward one of the new cabins. We praise God for this specially designated gift. We have received just over \$101,619 of the needed \$300,000. The balance on our mortgage is \$214,288. Please pray with us toward meeting this need. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis to meet this need? We are grateful to all who have stepped up to aid us in meeting this need.

Thank you for your partnership!

Cabin Challenge	
	\$ 300,000
	270,000
	240,000
	210,000
	180,000
	150,000
	120,000
Raised to date: \$101,619	90,000
	60,000
	30,000