

The Hai Lights

January 2006

Camp unveils new web site

We are excited about the improvements which have recently been made to our web site. Camp is working with Web Tek now and Kornell Kurtz did a great job. The new site is streamlined so that information is more easily accessed via the menu on the home page. This menu stays on every page you open, making it easy to jump around within the web site. You are still able to download forms and this newsletter, as well as get current information about upcoming programs. Please take a few moments to visit us at **www.telhaicamp.org**.



Staff changes . . .

We have recently had some changes on our staff. Sue Sumner resigned from the Reservationist position and we have hired Mary Burke to fill that position. Mary lives in Geigertown and attends Hopewell Christian Fellowship. Look for more information about Mary in a future newsletter. Rick Barclay our Food Service Director will also be leaving us after three and a half years in that capacity. As of this writing we are searching for his replacement. Please contact the office if you know of someone who might be interested in the food service position. Thanks to Sue and Rick for their faithful service to camp. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Tel Hai Retirement announces 50th anniversary celebration

Our neighbors, Tel Hai Retirement Community will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this coming summer. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. The date for this celebration is June 3, 2006. There will be good food, games and entertainment provided - something for everyone. In addition a kick-off Service of Thanksgiving will be held on April 23, 2006 at 2:30 P.M. You can contact the retirement community for more information at (610)273-9333

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Our purpose is to provide an atmosphere where the Spirit of God can convict, encourage and nourish all who enter. This is done by providing warm, clean accommodations and a friendly, caring staff; as well as numerous opportunities for physical refreshment.

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Whats Happening . . .

Canoeing & Archery Classes for home-schoolers . . . April & May

Scrapbooking Retreat . . . March 3-5

Mother/Daughter Spring Getaway . . . April 21-23

Spring Celebration . . . April 24 @ Shady Maple Banquet Hall

Spring Work Day . . . May 6

Benefit Spaghetti Supper . . . May 12

(Call the camp office for details on any of these upcoming programs)

Between the lines . . .

by Bruce Gregory

When was the last time you had the opportunity to ride a horse, and I don't mean those little coin operated ones outside Wal-Mart? If you are like me, you enjoy a horse ride through the woods with some friends, but you also feel somewhat intimidated by the size and power of a horse. There is a certain amount of respect needed as you work around horses. They are powerful animals each with their own personalities and quirks, and without careful handling and care injuries can occur. I found this out first hand when I collided heads with one of our horses this summer.

Our summer campers are much the same – each has their own personality and quirk and without proper care injuries can occur. Maybe that is why the horsemanship programs have become one of the most popular summer activities at camp. This elective is usually the first to fill up, and other campers who may take a class often will go to the horse corral to pet the horses.

However, as with any activity like this there is a lot of time, expenses, and hard work that goes into preparing horses for summer. I am very grateful for not only the horse wranglers who come in the hot summer and teach campers and muck stalls and everything else that is involved, but also for the many volunteers involved.

We have several boarders who care for our horses throughout the non-summer months. **Walt Kurtz** has helped us greatly with hauling horses, providing hay, and other areas. **Noelle Willoughby**, one of our horse wranglers for eight summers, is still involved throughout the year helping with checking on horses and obtaining the proper equipment for us.

And this fall, we had the youth group of **Rockville Mennonite Church** come and completely rebuild our riding ring. This arena area where the campers will start out learning to ride the horses had been falling apart and becoming a danger to both the horses and the campers. Now thanks to the Rockville youth we have a new riding ring ready to go for the upcoming season.

We thank all of you who have been involved in making the horse program an exciting part of camp for the kids; especially for many of these youngsters who have never even seen a horse let alone ride one.

Summer staff work day . . .

Most summer staffers will tell you that after you have been at camp a couple of summers it "grows on you" and you find yourself wanting to be at camp every chance you can. Recently some of our summer staffers came to camp on a Saturday to help cut and remove several troublesome trees here at camp. They worked under the watchful eyes of Rick and Bruce and our favorite "favorite seasoned expert tree removal volunteer", Paul Gregory. Helping out were: Karl Beiler, Keith Brooks, Amanda Eby, Jon Essick, Joshua Gregory, Dan Kiralfy, Laura Matz, and Katie Pechart. Thanks, gang for all your help!



Open weekends for retreats . . .

Spruce Lodge:

February 3-5
February 10-12
March 31-April 2
May 5-7
May 26-28

Beechwood Lodge:

February 3-5
February 17-19
March 17-19
May 12-14
May 26-28

If your church has never had a retreat before why not call us and discuss the possibility of having a retreat at Tel Hai Camp & Retreat? We have resources to help you plan and carry out a successful retreat. We have facilities to suit any group. - Camp is also available for family reunions on a limited basis. Give us a call to discuss your retreat. Having a retreat at camp is much cheaper than using a motel and/or restaurants and you can't beat the atmosphere! We also do banquets, family dinners, day events, and much more. Visit the "Rental Information" on our web site to check out all the possibilities.

Elm remodeled



As this newsletter is being written our maintenance department is finishing up a complete remodeling of the Elm cabin. Upgrades include new insulation, new windows, drywall, and partitions between bunk beds. These improvements will not only make the building more enjoyable for our guests, it will be easier to clean and maintain.

Steps forward . . .

by: Mike Willoughby

In the September/October edition of CCCA's publication *InSite* Lee Cuesta, executive director of Shamineau Ministries offers the results of a survey his ministry did in an attempt to try to learn why camper registrations had declined. This article was of particular interest to me because, as some of you know, our attendance for both summer camp and retreats has dropped some the past couple of years. They learned there are three primary reasons; interestingly, finances (or a lack thereof) was not mentioned as one of the three. They were 1) more competition, 2) attraction to tangible results (a measurement of the benefits of coming) and, 3) the 911 effect. Guests (parents in particular) are more aware of the need for adequate security. Parents want to be able to be in touch with their children. Do these three reasons account for our declines also? Who can say? There is no question there is a lot of competition in our area. I can think of a dozen Christian camps within a 30 minute drive of our camp. Is security a consideration? I'm sure it is, at least to some degree. There is no question some families have replaced long distance vacations with closer-to-home outings. These issues remind me of how important it is to stay abreast of what is happening in the world of camping. One of the ways we are able to do that is through our membership and affiliation with Christian Camp and Conference Association. Tel Hai Camp & Retreat has been a member of this 1,000 member Christian camp association since 1975. Their publications, conferences and advice have benefited me many times in the past. (If you are interested in learning more about CCCA visit their web site www.ccca-us.org). The staff and board of Tel Hai Camp & Retreat very much appreciate your prayers and suggestions as we continue to stay abreast of current trends in order to better serve our guests.

telhaicamp.org

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