



It's almost time for camp!

Spring 2014

MWBC Christian Camper

midwestbiblecamp.org



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Lake Darling Returns at Last!

The day has finally arrived! Lake Darling has been empty for 6 long years, but on February 12, the gates to the dam were closed at last! The lake is filling up again!

Final work is currently being completed to the areas around the lake, including the LDYC beach front and boat dock. New sand and a new lifeguard stand will all be in place soon!

Water in the lake means that swimming and canoeing activities will return to the list of activities available at all sessions of MWBC. All swimming activities will be monitored by a certified lifeguard and campers who wish to go canoeing must



pass a swimming test. Life preservers must be worn when canoeing and a staff person is required to be present in each canoe.

So pack a swimming suit, sunscreen, beach towel and coverup this year because the lake is waiting!!

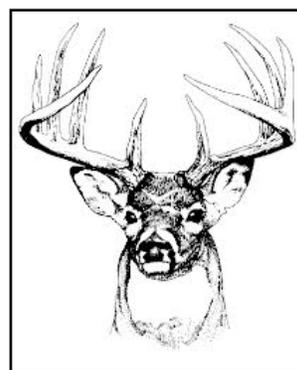
-Pattie Madison

Grandpa's Buck Moves to Camp

We are excited to announce the arrival of a new member to our camp family, "Ozzie the Buck"! As you may have heard, the buck head that had been hanging in the dining hall at camp was retired this winter because it was falling apart. Upon hearing the news, the MWBC Board went on the HUNT for a replacement. Luckily, board members Brian and Joan Kramer were able to secure a NEW buck head! This particular buck has a great story behind it because it was shot by Joan's grandfather, Oswald Elbert Corbett Lessly (1912-1999) Here is the story as related by Joan:

Kentucky. He spent the summer building a deer blind and come fall, on his first outing with the muzzle loader, with his first shot, he landed the first buck he saw that day. At that proud

moment he said he would mount that buck even though it was not a trophy deer. He would be so honored to know that this buck head now resides at Lake Darling Youth Center, serving a purpose for those that have the honor of kissing Ozzie the Buck!"



Who will have the privilege of giving Ozzie his first kiss? Come this summer to see for yourself! We wish to give a

special thanks to Joan for donating Ozzie to MWBC so that the traditional MAIL CALL entertainment can go on for many more years! Parents, when you're sending your campers mail this summer, don't forget to tell them to give the New Buck a smooch!

-Nikki Bahler

2014 Camp Sessions

Junior Week June 7-14
Dale Burlison & Nikki Bahler

SALT 1 June 7-14
Pattie Madison

Senior Week June 14-21
Jason Hawkins & Carson Tuttle

Intermediate Week June 21-28
Jeremy Widner & Cade Loven

SALT 2 June 21-28
Sarah Bochmann

Special Week 0 June 28-July 5
Tim Miller & Jason Thompson

Girls Retreat July 13-17
Deleana Roseland, Dar Battles, & Tricia Miller

Special Week 1 July 26-Aug 2
Nate Rowedder & Cason Pyle

Special Week 2 Aug 2-9
Colby Clapp & Josh Kearns

"My Grandfather loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. For many years he talked about getting a muzzleloader for hunting deer. When he was about 80 years old he finally bought one through the Internet with the help of a friend from the gun shop in Cadiz,

Girls Retreat Moves to July 13-17

Due to schools getting out late this year because of snow make-up days, Girls Retreat will now take place from July 13-17 instead of June 3-7. July 13 is a Sunday, so registration will take place from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. With this move, Directors Deleana Roseland and Dar Battles have brought on Tricia Miller as a 3rd director since prior personal obligations will require them to be absent from camp for short times during the Retreat.



Mike Halstead

MWBC wishes to recognize the February passing of Fort Dodge, IA minister and camp supporter, Mike Halstead. A full tribute will appear in our Winter 2014 edition.

Food Donations Needed

Every year, local Iowa churches generously donate food items to feed MWBC campers. With rising food costs and rising numbers of campers attending camp, we are asking for additional donations this year. In order to easily facilitate these donations, a donation site has been set up at:

signupgenius.com

Once you get to the site, select:

find a signup

Next, enter:

fooddonations@midwestbiblecamp.org - then sign up!

Donations may be dropped off at camp on May 3 or June 7.

*See your church bulletin board for more information.

MWBC Pays Tribute to David Bendickson

David Bendickson, former MWBC supporter and staff member, passed away January 11, 2014. Among the many ministries in which Dave was involved with throughout his life, MWBC was blessed to experience Dave's support through his work during many different camp sessions. In addition, Dave also served as a board member and board president. He provided strong, level-headed leadership.



Dave was well known for his ability to use his life's passion for archery and hunting to influence and encourage the lives of those he came into contact with. Camper Grant Seufferlein wrote of him... *"He was a great spiritual teacher who helped teach me patience and acceptance through archery. I was taught that I cannot control my surroundings, only respond to them appropriately. I must work with the winds to hit the target and see through the rain to find my mark. He taught me not to rush, and that timing was everything if I had the patience to wait for things to align."*

Dave rarely missed an opportunity to connect with someone. Even a complete stranger couldn't stay one for long around Dave. At camp he made it a point to identify with both campers and staff. Thank you David, for the impact you had on the lives of so many. Your presence and kindness will be sorely missed.

-Justin Miliken

Spaghetti Gala Raises Record Amount

The Central Church of Christ in Cedar Rapids once again hosted the MWBC Spaghetti Gala on February 22. Income from the event totaled just under \$5,000 - a new record! Proceeds were split between MWBC's Campership and Facilities funds.

A great crowd was in attendance and everyone had a fun time eating, bidding in the Silent Auction and Live Dessert Auction, and just visiting with each other. Joel Schmidt once again led the lively dessert auction, which included bids of over \$100 for bottles of homemade maple syrup! Other cakes, pies, and candies sold for anywhere from \$10 to several hundred dollars.

The final item up for bid was a "Happy Birthday Dar" carrot cake in honor of a "significant" birthday for Darlene Battles, Girls Retreat co-director and staffer at Special 2 and Intermediate Week. Several of her camp co-workers and family chipped in to help her husband



Elizabeth Randall and Daddy (Joel Randall) help serve food at the Gala!



Dar Battles poses with her \$830 Birthday cake.

honor and scare her by bidding the cake up to \$830!

Midwest Bible Camp greatly appreciates the efforts of those involved and the generosity of all those in attendance. If you would like to host an event to benefit MWBC at your congregation, we welcome you to do so and will be happy to support you in any way we can.

-Tricia Miller

Camper Spotlights

According to my Mom, Dar Battles, my first times at camp started before I was even born. My first official week at camp was Girls Retreat. It's really hard to decide what my most memorable moment at camp has been, just because I've had so many! If I have to choose though, I think it would be when Jeremy Widner gave the oldest kids at Intermediate week storybooks as a going away present. I do think I've made some long lasting relationships, not only with the campers but with the staff as well. There are a lot of people that I wouldn't have met if it hadn't been for camp and I'm very thankful for that.

Annie Battles



"There are a lot of people I wouldn't have met if it hadn't been for camp and I'm very thankful for that."

I have been blessed by God so much through camp. I have matured so much there too. I have become much closer to God in my life because of everything that I've learned at camp. I've learned to be a leader though camp, being one of the oldest campers, and that will be very helpful to me in the future. I'm very thankful for every minute of camp that I've been blessed enough to experience. I AM planning on going back to camp after I age out. I think I would really like to be a counselor, just so I'd be able to interact with the kids.

Annie Battles.

Brandon Toth

Whenever I hear the word "camp", my mind immediately jumps to MWBC. I've been a camper ever since 2010 and every year I go, I fall more in love with this amazing place. Camp to me is more than just a week or two out of my year, it's a home. It's a place to reconnect to God and friends. It's a place to meet new people, most of which in some form or fashion, impact me deeply each year.



"I wouldn't be the person I am today had it not been for this very, very special place."

Quite honestly, making the decision to go to camp four years ago was one of the best I've ever made in my life. I don't regret it for a moment and I wouldn't be the person I am today had it not been for this very, very special place.

Brandon Toth, Ankeny, IA, Age 16

Why be a Corporate Member?

How many times in your life will you be afforded the opportunity to invest in the future of youth in your community? How many times will you have a chance to share the vision and splendor of the Kingdom of God with young people across the state of Iowa and beyond? The time to make a difference is NOW and the first step to helping change lives is by becoming a *MWBC Corporate Member*.

Being a *MWBC Corporate Member* provides you the opportunity to get involved in helping craft the direction of Christian Camping in the heartland of the U.S. As a corporate member you have the privilege of attending any of the monthly board meetings. It

is here where you can be involved in the actions and decisions that affect the future of MWBC. As a corporate member you will also be asked to help select the board members who serve each year. Being a corporate member means you will be involved in impacting the next 50+ years of spreading the "Good News" through Christian Camping.

As a corporate member, your personal involvement and financial investment in MWBC will not only be a rewarding experience for you, but will also supply hope and change in the lives of many others. The MWBC Board of Directors would like to challenge and encourage each of you to

become a difference maker by taking action now!

The path to corporate membership is easy. Just fill out the form on page 5 of this newsletter and send it in. You must be at least 21 years old and a member of the churches of Christ to be eligible for membership. You can choose either an annual membership or a lifetime membership. Annual membership dues are allocated to MWBC's general operating fund and lifetime memberships are held in an endowment fund.

Amazing things happen when passion and purpose connect to serve a higher calling. Live inspired and take action! Be the next *MWBC Corporate Member!*

-Brian Kramer

MWBC currently has 60 Annual Corporate Members and 70 Lifetime Corporate Members. Help MWBC obtain 200+ Corporate Members by sending in your membership form TODAY! (see page 5)

MWBC'S Got Talent

Almost every MWBC session has one night dedicated to showcasing the talent of campers. There is singing, guitar, ukelele and violin playing, poetry and recitations, gymnastics and more. Over the past few years, however, campers who are pianists have been left out of the talent line-up because no piano has been available. That will change this year! Alice Olson of Kirkwood Ave. Church of Christ in Iowa City has generously donated an electric piano to MWBC.
THANK YOU ALICE!



Flaming Pines Offers Worship Camp



One of our sister camps, Flaming Pines Youth Camp in Togo, Minnesota, will be offering a new session of camp this summer that focuses on worship. Their website states:

Worship Camp is a one-week session dedicated to the purpose, benefit, construction, and execution of worship for both individual and congregational practices. Sessions will discuss and teach about many different facets of worship including, but not limited to, song-leading, a-cappella singing, musical and lyrical composition, prayer, leadership, artistic expression, and the biblical study of worship. Age 9-18 - \$75 - July 20-26.

If you would like to attend, see the website for details: fpyc.org If you need transportation from Iowa to Minnesota, please contact Tammy Sparks at tammysparks@hotmail.com

Friends of MWBC Brunch



Muscatine's cooks & servers: (L-R) Lynn Pruitt, Bob Housby, Ruth Evans, Marci Hallett, Rudy Schellekens, Travis Pierson, Alan Evans, and Paul Hallett. (not pictured: Molly Pierson and Shalan Evans)

Many thanks to the Muscatine church brethren for hosting the 2014 Friends Brunch on April 12 in conjunction with their youth rally. Approximately 75 people gathered for the delicious brunch and lively fellowship.

After the brunch, everyone gathered for an update on MWBC and the upcoming camping season. President, Dana Brant introduced the session Directors and Board Members, and also gave an overview on the "state of the

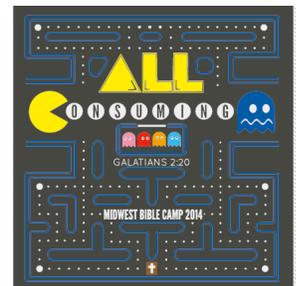
camp". Colby Clapp spoke about this year's theme, ALL CONSUMING, which focuses on the fact that we have a choice between being consumed by sin or God's love. Attendees also viewed this year's camp power point presentation and a new video. Dan McCann led some camp songs and introduced a potential theme song called *Christ Above Me*. Everyone left with a heightened level of enthusiasm for MWBC 2014.

*Proceeds totaled \$468.

-Lynn Pruitt

T-Shirt Contest Results are In!

This year, MWBC board members decided to allow campers and staff to vote for the 2014 theme T-shirt design. Three people came up with four possible designs and then voting was conducted on the camp web-site. 167 people participated during the 2 weeks of voting. First place went to the **video game** design! We hope that everyone enjoyed this process and will be proud to wear this year's T-shirt! The designer wished to remain anonymous. Thanks to everyone who participated!



New MWBC Staffing Policies

Each summer families from across Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and states around our nation trust us with their children. They trust that their children will be safe, have fun and grow in their relationship with Christ. As part of honoring this trust placed in us, the MWBC Board has reviewed and made some changes to our staffing policies.

While we would love to trust everyone and assume that nothing questionable would happen at camp, this sadly is not always the case. There are many cautionary news stories about teachers, camp staff, and youth workers who betrayed the trust placed in them by harming those they were supposed to protect and care for. In each case, not only did the victims suffer grievous emotional or physical harm, but the sponsoring organizations and overseeing individuals also suffered the

burden of responsibility. These incidences also had a negative impact on the missions they served.

Beginning this year, all staff members **MUST** have a staff application and background check completed prior to staffing at camp. The background checks are completed at the expense of the camp. The application also contains a statement of faith which outlines the core beliefs of the church of Christ for each staff member to sign.

These changes will allow us as a Board to better understand who is staffing camp and their reasons for being there. The safety, both physically and spiritually, of each camper is the Board's highest concern and responsibility. We pray these changes to the staffing policy reflect that focus.

-Jeremy Widner

Letter from the President

Dear Christian Campers,

I am hopeful that when you read this edition of the *Christian Camper* that you are already making plans to attend at least 1 week of camp. The board is busy finalizing details for MWBC's 2014 summer sessions. I can say that we have great momentum and feel like this year will provide amazing opportunities for God to spiritually enrich and empower the campers that come to MWBC.

If you are reading this and are not sure if you are coming to camp this year, ask yourself these few simple questions: 1) How often do I have the opportunity to be around 30, 40, maybe 50 plus other Christian people that have my best interest at heart?

2) How often do I get to be at a place where I can openly share my struggles?
 3) When was the last time I grabbed another brother's or sister's hand and prayed in a place that, if I allow it, will fuel me with love for one another?

"This may be the year MWBC changes your life!"

We can all agree that its been a long winter! But now the time has finally arrived to commit to coming to MWBC so you can gather around the campfire, close your eyes, and let the Lord renew your spirit.

In the book of Ephesians Paul gives advice on how we should live and treat



each other. MWBC is a place where you can come and feel the love and unity that Paul speaks about.

As the father of 4, I have seen first hand how MWBC has inspired my kids to love others. This is what God wants for all of us. Camp is as real as it gets, so pick up your cross and come allow God to strengthen your spirit while making your relationship with Jesus even better. This may be the year MWBC changes your life!

Love from the President,
Dana Brant

Camp Clean-up Day

If you have **Saturday, May 3** open on your calendar, be sure to head out to LDYC in Brighton to help get the campsite ready for camp this summer. Clean-up will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until the work is completed.

This year, Tim Miller will be coordinating the clean-up efforts. Members of the LDYC board and the Y-Men's group will also be participating in the work.

Lunch will be provided, so come with work gloves, cleaning rags, etc. Many hands make light work! See you there!



Yes, I believe in the great work Midwest Bible Camp does with our young people!

I wish to support this great ministry by being a MWBC Corporation Member

(Must be 21 or older & a member of the Church of Christ. Terms are for the calendar year, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Annual Membership (\$20) | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Annual Membership (\$40) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Lifetime Membership (\$200) | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Lifetime Membership (\$400) |

I would also like to contribute to:

- Campership Fund (to help kids get to camp) and/or
- Operating Fund (operating expenses)

With a one-time donation in the amount of \$ _____

A repeating donation, as follows:

A sum of \$ _____ once a _____ Month _____ Quarter _____ Year, amounting to a Total of \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would prefer that this contribution and/or my name be kept anonymous. Thanks!

Send to: Midwest Bible Camp, 1201 N 5th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428



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Email

info@midwestbiblecamp.org

For address corrections, contact:

mailinglist@midwestbiblecamp.org

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