

# Camp Alexander Mack

## Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ "Moments of Reflection and Connection" with Gene, recalling his father's favorite songs to sing as he helped plan for a Christmas Eve service (p 2)
- ⇒ "2019 Nature Memories" with Jess, from an upside-down jellyfish to a Bald eagle family (p 3)
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## **News from the Director**

### **Moments of Reflection and Connection**

This year, I volunteered to assist in planning the Christmas Eve service for my congregation. I had several roles in the planning and sharing of that service, but I will highlight only one of them. I was supposed to find a few instrumental recordings of *O Holy Night* to be played during communion. It wasn't my job to decide—it was my job to find some possibilities.

I truly enjoyed the time because we have collected a LOT of Christmas music over the years. It was fun to look through and listen to so many great recordings, and the time spent renewed my Christmas spirit! In the end, a recording presented by another member of the committee was selected, but because of the task, I began an important reflection.

My job was to find recordings of *O Holy Night*. I couldn't listen to any of them without tears, because in each, I heard my father's voice. As we were growing up, and many years after, he sang it at church on Christmas Eve. That memory reminded me of the other songs he always sang. For most of my memories, Mom was at the piano.

*Let There be Peace on Earth* was often a song he sang in the evenings and, occasionally, at church. *You'll Never Walk Alone* was one of his favorites, and I remember him singing it at funeral, dedication, and recognition services. *Sunrise, Sunset* he sang at my sister's wedding, and I'm sure at many others. *Sabbath Prayer* was one that my mother sang with him at home. And although it wasn't really a great song for special music on Sunday morning, he thought it was, and sang it often. He sang *The Lord's Prayer* frequently at so many occasions, and at Easter, he always sang *Because He Lives* and *He Lives*.

You know, it really is amazing how one small task can lead us to recall and experience long-forgotten moments in our lives that, upon reflection, have impacted us in incredible ways. I believe that happens here.

When people come to Camp Mack, they remember so many wonderful connections they have made over the years. There are connections with people whom they have loved; connections with nature; connections with important milestones in their lives; and all these are connections with God. If you haven't been here to visit recently, please come. Remember those moments of connection, and tell us your stories.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director





# Nature Nut News

## 2019 Nature Memories



*Pics Left to Right and Top to Bottom: Snowberry clearwing moth in Camp Mack wilderness, Cooper's hawk on Camp Mack main, hairy vetch at Miller Woods, Blandings turtle at Pisgah boardwalk, sandhill cranes in Walkerton, upside-down jellyfish in Florida Keys, and bald eagle family on Ten-Mile Road.*

2019 has drawn to a close, and it is time to reflect on some of my favorite nature moments of the year. Summing up the year, two words I would use to describe those moments are: intentional and educational.

In 2019, I made it a goal to be intentional about use of my time on days off by checking out *new to me* trails in northern Indiana and some old favorites. These adventures took me to Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA) on Earth Day, Miller Woods in Gary, Carlson Oxbow Park in Highland, Pisgah boardwalk, Potato Creek State Park, Fidler Pond in Goshen, Goose Pond FWA in Greene County, and many other backroads in Indiana.

Along the way, I met many new people at pull-offs along the road and on the trail. Something about seeing a person with binoculars and cameras gives permission to strike up a conversation. Those conversations led to so many new and interesting locations I wouldn't have found in any guide book. I am thankful to those who pass on their knowledge and experience.

Lastly is education. The upside-down jellyfish was found along the edge of a quarry I was snorkeling in during a Marine Biology trip. In reality there were hundreds of them. The hike in Miller Woods was after attending a seminar on black oak savannas, and I was able to put my new-found knowledge to the test.

Looking forward to where 2020 will take me. Anytime is a good time to try out a new trail.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

# Sunny Camp Mack

## 2019 Project Reflection and To-Do-List

I thought for this article I would look at the capital projects that we have accomplished in 2019. This past winter we replaced the geothermal heating/cooling system in the south residence. The old system was original to the building that was built in 1996, so it had served us well. The new system was installed by Alliance Comfort Solutions at a cost of \$22,000, and it works very well.

This spring we had the old tennis courts covered with asphalt, and a couple of weeks later Jim Bates came up and striped them for us. We now have four beautiful basketball courts that were used a lot this summer.

We had almost completed the siding/window project in Ulrich, but we had not replaced the front doors. We purchased the doors from Hoover Lumber, and Kevin Ramer installed them for us. We now have the Ulrich project completed, and it looks so nice.

This spring we had Crist Electric install a new 200 amp. electric service to the Shady Banks home, and now we can keep the lights all burning brightly.

The rest of our capital projects involve roofs. In about 1998, Becky Ball-Miller got us a great deal on about 1000 square feet of shingles, and we roofed all the lodges. That was 20 years ago, and we need to work at replacing all those roofs. With the help of the Dekalb soccer team, we started on Sarah Major last year and finished the south lower roof this summer. We have taken off the lower south roof on Quinter Miller and recovered it with just felt waiting for next summer to roof it. We also have Jacob's Well covered with felt on one side and needing the other side stripped and covered this summer also. The chapel is also in need of a new roof, and North Winona Church of the Brethren is going to help us do that.

I know this list of things to do is long, but God has been faithful in nudging folks to generously give to help us accomplish much this past year. I need to finish this with a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who worked so many hours this past year to help us make this place a sanctuary where people connect with God.

Bless you all,

Galen Jay, Facility Director





## Be Our Guest

### Happy Registration Day!

Every time of the year brings its own joys, and each part connects to the next. We are preparing for summer camps even when there's snow outside, and we're thinking about retreat details while campers are swimming in the lake. It's the circle of life around here at Camp Mack.

Summer camp is truly a gift. Not only do the summer campers obtain leadership skills, techniques for their journey of faith, new friends, confidence, and full bellies, but the counselors and staff here at Camp Mack glimpse the joy on those campers' faces and see the love in their hearts. What a blessing it is to be a part of.

As a camper, Camp Mack was a place for me to come and be with friends, experience new adventures, come closer to God in nature, practice skills like boating, overcome my fear of heights on the rock wall (still working on that one), eat cinnamon toast, and feel comfort in being myself. I lost a dear church friend in high school to a car accident, and some of our best memories together were experienced at camp. I hold close those and so many other great memories of being a camper.

Not everyone's camp experience is the same, and each year can bring different opportunities with new and old friends. I hope Camp Mack can be your place; your place for having fun, resting, sharing with your children, and being yourself.

Keep an eye out for a Camp Mack brochure, or call the office to request one. Register and pay before March 15th to avoid late fees. Forms are available on your online registration dashboard. Payment plans are now available. We've made some changes and improvements to registration, so feel free to be in touch with any questions, and keep shining your light for Jesus!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

**CAMP ALEXANDER MACK**  
**HAPPY REGISTRATION DAY!**  
**What:** Join us in celebrating registration day 2020.  
**When:** JANUARY 22nd. Registration opens at 7:00 PM.  
**Who:** YOU! And your family and friends, too!  
**Where:** campmack.org

Call camp for questions:  
574-658-4831

ROW BOAT

EMILY

The graphic features a light blue sign with white text for 'CAMP ALEXANDER MACK' and 'HAPPY REGISTRATION DAY!'. Below this, registration details are listed in bold black text. To the right, a red arrow points downwards with the contact information. The bottom half of the graphic shows a photo of a smiling female counselor with sunglasses and a name tag that says 'EMILY' standing between two young girls in orange life jackets. In the background, other campers and a sign that says 'ROW BOAT' are visible.

# Another Way of Giving

## Stick to the Script

When I was a conductor on the Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway, I had a script to follow. It had all the history, jokes, and facts about the journey. Even two years later, I can still tell you the exact moment on the tour where I would talk about Zebulon Pike, the pile of rocks that signaled me to discuss the highest mountains in Colorado (Pikes Peak is not the highest in case you were wondering), and the Pikes Peak Hill Climb car race.

The script was comprehensive and you had to follow it. Some got in trouble for not using the script. At the same time, we had room to add our own jokes. There was a point on the journey where the script called on us to have people introduce themselves to their neighbors. I added the line “and if they are New England Patriots fans, please let them know that this is their stop.” People loved it, so I left it in. Later that summer, I rode with a new conductor finishing her training, and she told my joke with her own college football twist. It was fun to talk with her about where she heard that joke and how she adapted it. If the railway had not closed for renovation, I wonder if my joke would still be told? Maybe it would be in the script.

Scripts are like policies and procedures. They need to be set in stone to provide consistency and accountability. With the railway, if someone didn’t have the experience they wanted, anyone could read about it on Tripadvisor, Facebook, or Google review. Trust me, there are some reviews about me that are not too pleasant. If we do not follow the policy and procedure script at Camp Mack, we can lose trust and accountability.

We are writing and modifying our scripts: Financial Procedures, Gift Acceptance Policy, and the Employment Manual. We have financial procedures, but we haven’t had a written procedure for several years. With a new team, it was past time to make that happen. A gift acceptance policy provides parameters for the kinds of gifts we can accept and shows us how we should handle gifts with special requirements. The employee manual had maps that included Becker Lodge, references to AOL instant messenger, and other out-of-date ways to do things.

Our script will always adapt and change, and a part of that will be bringing in people other than staff to help discover trends, best practices, and missing pieces. Policy writing might be boring, but it makes us sustainable, accountable, and transparent.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business





## **Kitchen News**

### **Blueberry Pudding Cake**

I love warm desserts when it's cold outside. Goopy fruit crisps with melting ice cream are among the best kinds of winter desserts. I was looking for something new to make for one of our groups a few weeks ago and found this blueberry cake recipe on Pinterest. I adapted it a little bit to use up some blueberry pie filling I had on hand in the kitchen. The topping is more cobbler-like than a crisp, and the extra cinnamon sugar adds just a touch of sweetness. Enjoy!

#### **Blueberry Pudding Cake**

##### **INGREDIENTS**

1 pint fresh ripe blueberries, you can substitute frozen.  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon lemon zest  
Juice from half a lemon  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup whole milk  
3 tablespoons melted butter  
1 teaspoon almond extract  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup more granulated sugar  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
1 cup boiling water

##### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a bowl, toss blueberries with cinnamon, zest, and juice. Pour into prepared pan.

In a medium bowl, whisk flour,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar, and baking powder.

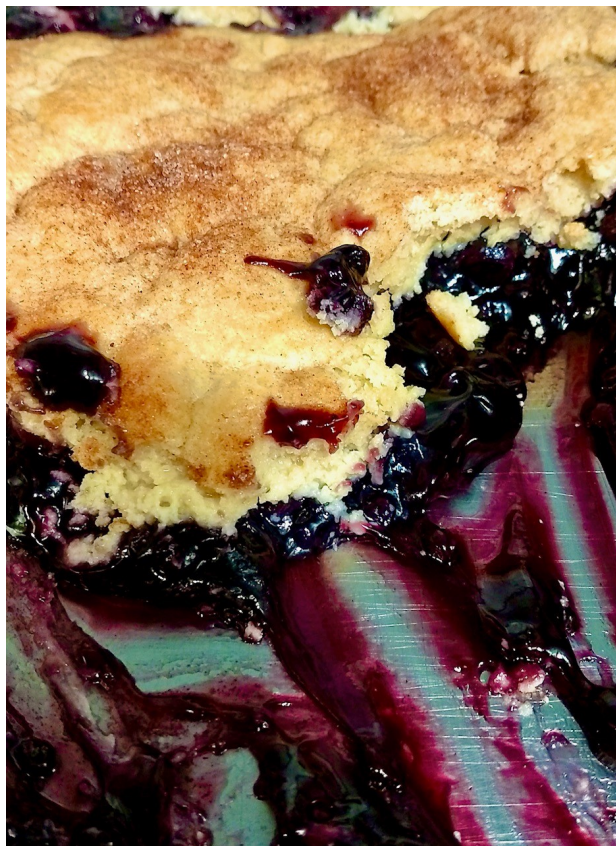
Whisk in milk and melted butter along with almond extract. Pour this evenly over the blueberries.

In a small bowl, mix  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of sugar with cornstarch and salt and sprinkle this over the batter.

Pour boiling water into the pan (right over the batter).

Place in the preheated oven and bake for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted into the batter comes out clean. (There will be blueberry sauce on the toothpick.)

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



# Education Station Part I

## Meteor Gazing

Winter is a time of darkness, which can be really useful if you want to see stars or other celestial objects. This month, we're in for a pretty cool show in just a couple of days—the Quadrantids Meteor shower on January 3rd–4th.

There are several meteor showers that happen each year, and the Quadrantids is one of the most impressive. But what is a meteor shower? First, we have to talk about asteroids and comets.

An asteroid is a small, rocky body that orbits the Sun. They were formed close to the Sun early in the history of the solar system about 4.5 billion years ago from the leftover bits of dust from the formation of our stars and planets. Comets were also formed around then, but they were formed farther from the Sun and are composed of ice and dust (they are often called “dirty snowballs”). As a comet's orbit takes it toward the Sun, the ice and dust vaporize, which becomes the comet's tail.

Meteoroids are formed when an asteroid or comet breaks up into smaller pieces. If a meteoroid comes close enough to Earth and enters Earth's atmosphere, it vaporizes and turns into a meteor: a streak of light in the sky. You might call them “shooting stars” but meteors are not actually stars. If a meteor survives its trip through the atmosphere and lands on Earth, it's called a meteorite.



Meteor showers happen when the earth in its orbit around the Sun passes through meteors (asteroid and comet dust and debris), which burn up in the atmosphere and create streaks of light in the sky. The Quadrantids is considered an above average shower, with up to 50–120 meteors per hour at its peak. The shower runs annually from January 1–5, with the peak in the early morning hours of the 4th. This meteor shower is known for its fireballs that are brighter and last longer than other meteor showers.



## Education Station Part II

A large fireball meteor flew over Russia in 2013, and it was about three times as bright as the sun and the shock wave knocked many people to the ground!



Meteor showers are usually named for the constellation they radiate from. In this case, that constellation no longer exists! To get the best view, go somewhere dark between 1 a.m. to dawn (after the moon has set at 1 a.m. will be the darkest sky) and give your eyes about 20-30 minutes to adjust to the dark. You'll want to look Northeast for the handle of the Big Dipper, which will be a good starting point for where to see the meteors. Bring a friend, and maybe you'll have an experience to remember!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator



## Exciting Plans

### 3 Priorities Confirmed

We have some really exciting news to share!

As you know, we are in the middle of a capital campaign. This campaign has raised \$300,000 for planning, funding the campaign, and hiring staff to build our outdoor education program and focus our marketing. This second phase of the campaign raises at least \$800,000 for modernization of our facility. Since we can identify at least \$2,000,000 of modernization and new construction we would like to accomplish, we have to prioritize. Our goal is a realistic one, and we have faith that God will provide in God's time. We are pleased to share that we are well over half-way to our \$800,000 goal in gifts and pledges.

The campaign kicked off in March of this year. At the time, we needed to explore needs, research some responses to those needs, and carefully consider what we must accomplish to best position the camp for the future. A committee of stakeholders has been examining this and made a recommendation to the Indiana Camp Board. The recommendation was approved at the December Camp Board meeting, and we are ready to share as much as we know at this point.

**Priority #1—Build a health center/outdoor restroom facility.** Our current health center is not centralized. This can cause issues for our health care professionals and campers who need to visit the center. The building would provide a space with security for records and medications; a consultation and examination room; private restroom for sick campers; restroom, shower, and sleeping space for the health care provider; and beds with privacy for sick campers. Our current health center does not fully meet current standards for these areas. The best location for the center will be close to the John Kline Welcome Center. This new facility will be built on the west side of John Kline and public restrooms will be added on each side of the building to provide for our guests, particularly those who are using the Quinter-Miller Auditorium. Once the facility is built, the old stone restrooms near Jacob's Well will be torn down. A path will be built to the restroom from the auditorium, so that people who have mobility issues will be able to access it more easily.

This meets two of our main goals:

- Provide a clean, secure, and accessible health center to meet camper needs during the summer and provide additional private sleeping space for a family or single guest during retreat season.
- Modernization of restrooms throughout camp to improve our guest experience and lower maintenance costs.



**Priority #2—Remodel the interior of Ulrich House, creating a modern retreat center.** The upper floor of Becker provided our best retreat space for adult retreat groups. When it burned, that space was not replaced, and this has meant lost income since the summer of 2010. We have tracked our rental inquiries and surveyed our current rental groups, and we know that there is high demand for a more private space particularly for adults. The plan would be to remodel the interior of Ulrich House to create as many as 12 semi-private rooms, each with a capacity for four guests. Each room would share a full bath with another room. A large gathering room would be maintained and an elevator would be added for accessibility. The building would be used primarily for summer staff during the summer camp season and for retreats throughout the rest of the year.



## **Exciting Plans Continued**

This meets four main goals:

- The camp will now be able to offer a family-friendly, adult-friendly retreat center for groups who need more privacy
- Groups with members who are aging or face mobility issues will have an accessible building
- Summer staff will have clean and welcoming housing with more privacy (an important value in retaining good staff)
- Ulrich House will be brought to code for safety and mechanicals.

**Priority #3—Provide upgrades to Sarah Major Lodge.** Sarah Major Lodge is our oldest building at camp. We had a safety and construction engineer evaluate it, and his opinion was that the building still had many years of life left in it. However, we do hear from our guests that there are some issues that could improve their experience. The restrooms all are dated and need to be remodeled. We have spent a lot of time and money in the last couple of years fixing issues in all of the restrooms, and it is time to completely redo them for our current needs. The carpet needs to be replaced throughout the building. It has been at least ten years of hard use since this has been done. Also, it would be a goal to freshen the bedrooms, making them more inviting.

This meets two main goals:

- Modernization of restrooms throughout camp to improve our guest experience and lower maintenance costs.
- Make Sarah Major Lodge more comfortable and welcoming.

**Priority #4—Address deferred maintenance concerns.** If money is left after these projects, it will be directed toward three main deferred maintenance needs: replace Ulrich House roof, replace Sarah Major Lodge roof, and replace Sarah Major Lodge windows.

We are currently asking for information regarding design and costs. As these become available, we will share them. In the meantime, we know a lot more today than we did a month ago, and that is exciting!



**Thank you for your continued prayers and support!**

# Upcoming Events at Camp Mack

## Camp Mack Calendar

January 11	Camp Rep Meeting
<b>January 22</b>	<b>Summer Camp Registration Opens!</b>
February 13–16	Quilt Retreat
February 20–23	Scrapbooking Retreat
March 7	Team Leader Training
March 9–11	Volunteer Work Days
March 14–15	Mother Daughter Retreat
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Annual Dinner (Save the date!)</b>
March 20–21	FLYE Weekend

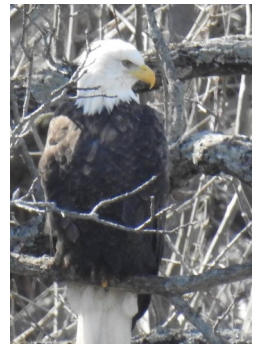
Plan now for these upcoming events!  
For more information, check out the website or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831. Click "Register Online" at the top of the campmack.org website.

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

**\*Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1–2 weeks in advance—thank you!**

**Register now! If there are not enough registrants by the Monday before an event, it will be cancelled. Check Facebook or call Camp Mack to inquire.**

**February 15—Eagle Watch** Eagle Watch is a program put on by the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center. We will meet at camp and then travel to the Salamonie Nature Center for a brief program on Bald eagle restoration in Indiana. From there, we will caravan to popular eagle locations in the area before ending up at the roost site. Dress for the weather. The colder the weather, the better the Bald eagle viewing. Saturday 1p–10p. Cost: \$25 (Includes travel and snacks)



**February 15—Personal Finance** Learn about budgeting, debt pay down, completing tax forms, and other finance basics. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

**February 22—Scrapbooking** Join the Camp Mack scrapbooking crew for a day of preserving memories. Work on the book you need to finish, catch up on your journaling, scrap a page or two, gain inspiration from the projects surrounding you, and find treasures at the swap table. Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)



**February 22—Board Games** Winter is the perfect time to light up the fireplace, gather up snacks, pull up a table, and bring out your favorite board games of yesteryear and today. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$20 (Includes lunch)

**March 28—Woodcarving** Learn to whittle a little caricature (person) and a face (wood spirit). Saturday 10a–3p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch)



-For more info, check out [www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or email [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).



# Upcoming Camp Rep Meeting and Retreats

## Camp Representatives Meeting

Talking about summer camp and all the programs that happen at Camp Mack throughout the year starts now. We want all camp reps to attend the camp rep meeting on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at Camp Mack. When you attend, you will have breakfast provided for you and you will receive all the print resources of camp events. Camp staff will let you know about important changes coming to the registration process, and most important, you get to network with other camp reps to see what special things they are doing within their churches.



## Quilt Retreat

This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFOs (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. February 13–16, 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$134 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$144 for Friday morning arrival, and \$180 for Thursday evening arrival.

## Scrapbooking Retreat

Crop until you drop with a weekend of scrap therapy. Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. February 20–23, 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$128 per person arriving Friday night, \$142 for Friday morning arrival, and \$162 for Thursday evening arrival.



Samplers	June 4–6	Eco Adventure	July 5–10
Beginners	June 7–9	Splash	July 5–10
Archery	June 7–11	Samplers	July 12–14
Seekers	June 7–12	Seekers	July 12–17
Grand Camp	June 11–13	Finders	July 12–17
Seekers	June 28–July 3	Followers	July 12–17
Finders	June 28–July 3	Survivor	July 12–18
Youth	June 28–July 4	Samplers	July 15–17
Culinary	July 5–10	Dadirri	July 26–Aug 1
Creative Arts	July 5–10	Grand Camp	August 2–4

### Camp Alexander Mack

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Save  
your date  
now!

