

# Camp Alexander Mack

## Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ “Expanding Our Ministry” with Gene, updates and on exciting things at camp, church connections (p 2)
- ⇒ “Maple Syrup Memories” with Jess, reminiscing family time sugaring at the farm, winter beauty (p 3)
- ⇒ “Winter of ‘20” with Galen, continued work on Sarah Major Lodge, and upcoming work days (p 4)
- ⇒ “Clovers of Faith and Luck” with Deanna, a gift of four-leaf clovers, poem for St. Patrick’s Day (p 5)
- ⇒ “Wins and Worry on the World Wide Web” with Todd, changes to our website and PIR (p 6)
- ⇒ “Days with Peter” with Vanessa, there’s a new baby in this world, welcome to Camp Mack, Peter! (p 7)
- ⇒ “Snow Science” with Kristen, appreciating and learning about the translucent flakes (p 8–9)
- ⇒ Upcoming Events from Get-a-Way Days to Retreats (p 10–11)
- ⇒ Summer 2020 (p 12)

# MACKABILIA



Camp Alexander Mack  
PO Box 158 | 1113 E Camp Mack Rd, Milford, IN 46542  
574.658.4831 | [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

# News from the Director

## Expanding Our Ministry

Since January 12, I have had the privilege of visiting with seven churches. Six visits have been in worship, and one was a Wednesday night fellowship. Others in our staff have been visiting, too, because this is a very important time in the life of Camp Mack.

In the last couple of years, we have made significant progress in solving many of our infrastructure and maintenance issues. There is still much to do, but it isn't as overwhelming as it once was. We have completely redone our financial reporting, providing an annual report for 2018. The 2019 annual report will be published in March. We have begun a comprehensive outdoor education program, and through those contacts, we have greater connections with our local schools. Last year, we spent \$10,000 to provide a camp experience to children who otherwise would not have been able to come. Because we continue to seek grants and other funding for camperships, we hope to spend even more this summer.

We are pursuing a capital campaign. We have raised \$750,000 of our \$1.1 million goal. The funds will help us build our outdoor education program, increase our ability to reach out into the community, consider camp ministry as an extension of church evangelism, encourage faith development in children rooted in our common beliefs as the Church of the Brethren, and improve our facilities for the purposes already mentioned. Already, outdoor education has begun to flourish, and we are taking bids for a health center and modern restrooms to serve the Quinter-Miller Auditorium.

We have a committee that is exploring whether Camp Mack is able to convert its electrical use to solar power. This group includes people who have led their churches through the conversion process, long-time Camp Mack stakeholders, facility staff, and engineers. They are reviewing needs, hearing proposals, and examining costs vs. benefits to present a proposal to the Indiana Camp Board. The board will then review their recommendations to determine if Camp Mack is ready for this important step.

Because deferred maintenance has continued to dominate much of our work through the last several years, this year it has been built into the budget. We are asking local congregations to assist in addressing this issue, and letters were sent to church leadership at the end of February.

What we have shared most, however, is our excitement over the many ways we want to connect with churches and groups. Please ask, and we will find a time to visit with you to talk about affordable retreats, pulpit supply, programs we can provide, volunteer opportunities, and outreach in your community.

Camp Alexander Mack belongs to you. With your support, we can continue to expand our ministry, serve you and your community, and fulfill the Great Commission: *Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world. Matthew 28:19-20 (CEV)*

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director





# **Nature Nut News**

## **Maple Syrup Memories**

Drip, drip, drip, drip, drip, maple sap flows out the tap a drop a second as the morning sun shines down and the temperatures rise. During winter, as the day temperatures creep above freezing and the nights dip below freezing, excitement builds for sugaring season.

Growing up, my favorite winter memory was of sugaring at the family farm. Before dawn broke, my grandpa and uncle would light the fire below the evaporator pans. Gallon milk jugs full of sap hung from the trees waiting for us to empty them into five-gallon buckets to carry to the fire. Thirsty? No worries. We just took a swig of the lightly sweetened sap from the jugs. As we slogged through the mud with full buckets up to the fire, the steam blowing off the cooking pans brought the sweet maple smell of the slowly thickening sap.

Our family would gather for a day of laughter, cooking hotdogs over the fire, collecting sap, climbing trees, hikes, and sharing generations of stories while we waited for that grand moment when we would take the pans off the fire and pour the golden amber maple syrup off.

While the embers of the fire went out and the sun set, we would gather in the house for pancakes and sausage with syrup that we had made that day.

Winter is sometimes seen as a season to hide indoors, but there is so much to experience in the beauty of the season. What memories and traditions will you make with your family this winter?

Photos left to right: Drip of maple sap hanging heaving on a tap, jug of maple sap, sap boiling down, final pour off of fresh maple syrup (bottom photo)



Jessie Kreider, Program Director



# Sunny Camp Mack

## Winter of '20

I sit here at my desk on February 27 and we have 4"-5" of very wet snow on the ground. This has been a very mild winter, and this is only the second snow I have even thought about getting the snow plow out for. The ground is not frozen, and that makes for some miserable snow plowing. The skids on the snowplow want to cut into the wet driveway stone and the next thing you know you are trying to plow your gravel off the drive. It really works much better when the ground is frozen solid and you skid right across the top of the drive.

We continue to work in Sarah Major Lodge. We are inside on the main floor in the meeting room doing similar work to the recent updates in room 1. Our crew is taking off the barn siding, pulling out the old insulation, reinsulating, then covering the whole wall with poly sheeting and taping all the edges. We have found several spots where the insulation has settled and several windows with nasty drafts around them. With everything exposed, we can cure all those issues. We then put new barn siding on the bottom four foot and drywall on the top part. This really lightens the room. One of the things we have found is the windows are leaking a lot of cold air through them. Some day soon we need to replace those windows. In the meantime, we are putting some clear poly over them, and that makes a big difference. The last thing we are doing is replacing the old baseboard heating units with new ones. With all these improvements, we are much better able to maintain a comfortable temperature on cold, windy days.

The last thing I want to mention is our work days coming up March 9-11. If you have some spare time, come over for any or all that time. If the weather is decent, we may take down some dead trees here on the main campus. If the weather is ugly, we will be inside working. Either way, we will have a good time making this place "...a sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Director





## **Be Our Guest**

### **Clovers of Luck and Faith**

For every 5,000 three-leaf clovers you may find 1 four-leaf around.  
You may search far and near and yet none may be found.  
Peel your eyes for four leaflets and scour the ground.

The rarity of these clovers has likened them to luck.  
But instead of good fortune, let your faith ascend the ruck.  
Best not leave your life to chance. Don't pass the buck.

These clovers found at camp by a fun-loving guest,  
Were given as a gift, and on my desk they rest.  
I see them and think of how Camp is blessed.

Clovers may have been used to symbolize the trinity.  
St. Patrick spread God's love to those in propinquity.  
This St. Patrick's Day, wish more than luck in your vicinity.

May the road rise with you, friends, and the warm sun shine.  
Whether at home or at the welcome center named after John Kline,  
I hope your faith keeps strong and luck doesn't undermine.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



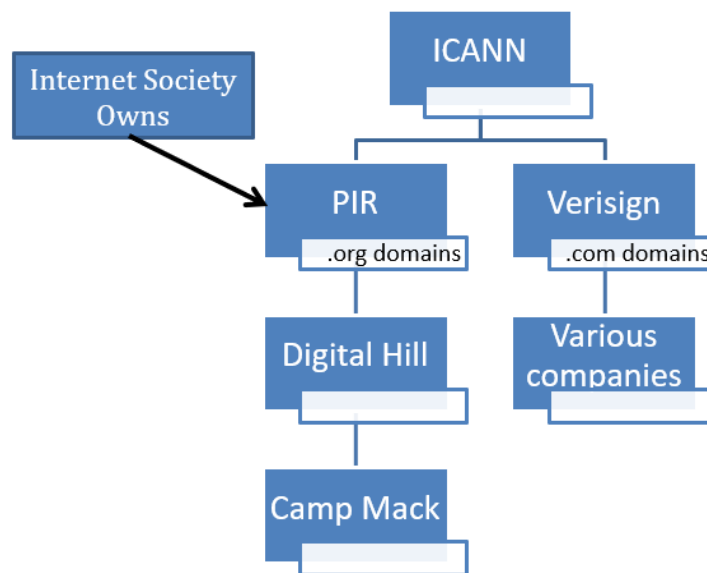
## Another Way of Giving

### Wins and Worry on the World Wide Web

Does our website look different to you? “No” is an acceptable answer. Did you ever click on the button “Click here for more information”? Did it take you to the page you were already on? If the answer is “yes”, you are in luck! That obnoxious button that we weren’t able to remove before is gone!

This February we converted our website to WordPress, which makes our website much more organic. We have more freedom to change the format and layout. The best example of this so far is our staff page. It was a listing of all of our staff in a vertical column. Most pictures were portrait style, except mine which was landscape. To find a list of our staff required a large amount of scrolling to find who you were looking for. Now everyone is in a three column format organized by department and the pictures are all the same size.

While it is exciting to change our website, there is concern about nonprofit websites overall. All domain names on the internet (like campmack.org, facebook.com, or manchester.edu) are controlled through a group of companies that make up an organization called ICANN, The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. I included a chart here to show all the companies that manage our website.



The Internet Society is a nonprofit with the same tax status as Camp Mack. However, the Internet Society recently announced plans to sell PIR, and control over .org domains, to a private equity firm. This means the group overseeing .org websites for Camp Mack, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, and many others would be seeking profit rather than providing a service. This opens the door to higher prices and could mean the highest bidder gets a website rather than a real organization. Here is an excellent article summarizing the whole situation, and its possible implications. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/27/opinion/org-domain-sale-icann.html>

While our new website is a win for us, I worry that PIR will land somewhere else.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



## Kitchen News

### Days with Peter



Vanessa has been spending her days with this blessing who arrived on January 30th.

Welcome to the world, and welcome to the loving community of Camp Mack, Peter Bohannon!

Peter has made appearances at camp during a couple staff meetings, the winter scrapbooking retreat, and some other short stops. He loves his big brother Oliver, and he has been enthralled with the bright lights in the Welcome Center. We look forward to seeing him more and walking alongside him as he grows.

Nathan and Dave are holding down the fort in the kitchen and have continued to do a great job feeding guests tasty meals. They'll be glad to have Vanessa back but know she's enjoying some important family time.

Join us in prayer for the Bohannon family, especially this handsome little guy.

Photos by Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director





# Education Station Part I

## Snow Science

Chionophobia is a word meaning “extreme dislike or fear of snow”. While I’m not afraid of snow, I really don’t like it. This winter, I’m trying to appreciate it more by learning more about it. Did you know that snow is actually clear and colorless? Visible light is white, and clean snow reflects most light, creating the white appearance that we see. Deeper, more compacted snow can appear blue, as it tends to absorb more red light, reflecting the blue wavelengths.



And then there’s watermelon snow, which is tinted red by cryophilic (cold-loving) fresh-water algae living in it like this photo from a glacier in Montana.





## Education Station Part II

Each winter in the US, at least 1 septillion ice crystals fall from the sky. That's 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000—24 zeros! Each snowflake is grown around a nucleus of a single particle of dust or pollen. The temperature determines the shape of snowflakes, and under certain conditions snowflakes can form up to 2 inches across! There is even a legend that Montana had some as large as 15 inches across back in 1887.



Snow is composed of frozen water crystals, but each crystal is surrounded by air, so the snow we see on the ground is actually 90-95% trapped air. This air makes it a great insulator, which is why so many animals burrow into it to hibernate for the winter. Igloos can even be 90-100 degrees warmer inside them than the outside air! With most of the total volume of a snow layer being made up of air, 10 inches of fresh snow can contain as little as 0.1 inches of water to as much as 4 inches of water.

Scotland takes the cake on the most terms related to snow: 421! While we don't have that many, we do have a couple that might surprise you. Here are some good words to understand when you're talking about winter weather:

**Snowflakes** – single ice crystals or clusters of ice crystals that fall from a cloud

**Hoarfrost** – deposition of ice crystals on a surface when the temperature of the surface is lower than the frost point of the surrounding air. My mother always loved when the trees around our house were covered in hoarfrost, though we never knew that is what it's called!



## Is it SLEET or GRAUPEL?



### Sleet

Liquid precipitation that freezes before reaching the ground.



### Graupel

Snowflake that collects supercooled water droplets on its surface.

**Graupel** – forms when snowflakes are coated with a layer of ice (also known as “snow pellets”)

**Sleet** – drops of rain that freeze into small, translucent balls of ice as they fall from the sky

**Freezing Rain** – rain that freezes upon contact with the ground

**Hail** – chunks of ice that fall during thunderstorms (summer version of sleet)

There are even different names for types of snowfall like flurries, squalls, bursts, snowstorms, and blizzards!

We might not be done with winter weather yet, so I hope the next snow is something we can all appreciate just a little bit more.

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator

## Upcoming Events at Camp Mack

### Camp Mack Calendar

March 7	Team Leader Training
March 9–11	Volunteer Work Days
March 14–15	Mother Daughter Retreat
<b>March 15</b>	Summer camp registrations with an outstanding balance after this date will incur a \$20 late fee. Registration is open now! Payment plans are available.
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Annual Dinner (R.S.V.P. by Friday 3/6, please!)</b>
March 20–21	FLYE Weekend
April 6–8	Volunteer Work Days
April 22–26	Quilt Retreat
April 28–29	Pastor's Sabbath
April 30–May 2	Birdwatcher's Retreat

### 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.**

**March 28—Woodcarving** Learn to whittle a little caricature (person) and a face (wood spirit). Saturday 10a–3p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch). Led by Randall Westfall. Meet at Crumpacker Yurt (stop by office if directions are needed).



**April 18—Basic Car Maintenance** See and practice basic car maintenance such as changing tires, lights, wiper blades, batteries, or fuses; checking fluids; jumping a car; and scheduled maintenance. Knowledge gained here will help keep you safe, save you money, and give your car a long-running life. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

**April 18—Pies and Puff Pastries** The perfect flaky crust is yours to master. Sweet or savory, pies and puff pastries have options for all. Create layers of flavor and beautiful toppings and embellishments for toppings. Fill your belly and take home these tasty treats. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$30 (includes lunch)



**April 25—Target Sports** Improve your aim and accuracy with a day of target sports. Let it fly, whether it be with a bow and arrow, slingshot and paintballs, or throwing atlatl darts through a hoop. No experience needed. Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$20 (Includes lunch) Meet outside Wampler Lodge and come dressed for the weather.

**April 26—Wildflower Walk** Experience the changes in the wilderness area as spring puts on a beautiful show of wildflowers and blooming shrubs. Appreciate the Trillium, Blood Root, Spring Beauties, Hepatica, and others in bloom. Sunday 2p–4p. Cost: FREE (bring a snack to share). Led by Jess Kreider. Meet outside Wampler Lodge and come dressed for the weather.

-For more info, go to [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**

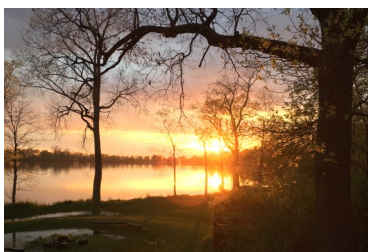


### **Volunteer Work Days**

Volunteers will work with the Camp Mack staff as we make preparation for the summer camp season and work on other projects. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Dates: Monday, March 9–Wednesday, March 11 and Monday, April 6–Wednesday, April 8. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available during this event. Please contact our office for reservations

### **Mother Daughter Retreat, “Little House, Big Woods”**

Come to the Big Woods where it all began for Laura Ingalls Wilder. Join us for a pioneer home weekend as we spend time doing drafts, carving, square dancing as we celebrate sugar season, and spending time together. This is for mothers, daughters, sisters, and grandmas—women of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$48 per child ages 5–8 and \$86 per person age 9 through adult. The prices include lodging, meals, and programming. Join us March 14–15, 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.



### **Annual Dinner, “A Night on Waubee”**

Spend an evening with friends, new and old, enjoying the finest food Camp Mack has to offer. Limited space is available. This event sold out last year. A donation of \$40 per person, \$300 for a table of six, or \$400 for a table of eight. We'll be here to fellowship with you on Friday, March 20 with hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6:15p and dinner at 7p. Please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible (extended to this Friday 3/6!).

### **FLYE Weekend**

FLYE weekends (Fun Leadership Youth Events) will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. FLYE participants will help serve our Annual Dinner this year. These weekends will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serving as a CIT (Counselor in Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. The first FLYE weekend is Friday, March 20 at 5p to Saturday, March 21 at 3p. Ages: 14–17. Cost: \$25



Plan now for these upcoming events!  
For more information, check out Camp's website or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831.  
Click “Register Online” at the top of the page at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org).

## Upcoming Events at Camp Mack

### Summer Camp Dates

Register now to secure your spot in your camp of choice. You are not fully registered until you have paid the \$75 deposit. Call the office if you would like to set up a payment plan or to ask questions. We are here to help!



Samplers	June 4–6	Eco Adventure	July 5–10
Beginners	June 7–9	<del>Splash</del>	<del>July 5–10</del> FULL
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 Mack Wish List

We are now recruiting team leaders, counselors, counselors in training, and summer healthcare personnel. All other volunteer needs are at [cammack.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://cammack.org/volunteer-opportunities). Please contact Jessica Kreider at [jessk@cammack.org](mailto:jessk@cammack.org) if you are interested in joining!

