



NATURAL LINKS

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

TRANSITIONS

MCA BI-NATIONAL RE-CAP

Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp, New Hamburg, ON, Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of Chris Pot as the new Executive Director starting April 1st. Chris and his wife Amanda have been part of the HAC team for the past 12 years and recently Chris served as the Interim Executive Director. Chris has a passion for camp and is excited to continue carrying on the mission and vision of Hidden Acres.

The Mennonite Camping Association Bi-National Gathering 2022
This past March, 45+ camp staff representing 19 camps gathered for the MCA Bi-national conference at Spruce Lake.

First of all, the venue, meals and hospitality were *spectacular* (thanks Mark and team)!

The conference was chock-full of activity and fun; from goofy games and laughing until our ribs hurt, to fine-dining (ooohhh, that cappuccino maker). From beautiful worship, to thought-provoking messages. Adventure filled days of zip-lining, hiking to the overlook, tours of the nature center, and the stunning new Wilderness Camp building.

We shared, and we learned together. Some of us even cried together.

There's nothing so special as a bond between camp staff. Who else would understand the craziness of camp life than a fellow-camp staff person? What a *blessing* we have to lean into one-another as camp professionals and as friends. We sincerely hope you enjoyed your time together as much as we did.

Warmest regards,
Jeanette Lahm, Laurelville - on behalf of the MCA Board

FEEDBACK, PLEASE!

You know the saying, "hindsight is 20-20?". The MCA Bi-National Gathering may be in the rear-view mirror, but the MCA Board would still like to gather participant feedback! If you attended the conference, please take a moment to share your thoughts via this link to a Google (Evaluation) Form: <https://forms.gle/5nEDV8N37xYggxos8>. Thanks!

Regional MCA gatherings are currently slated for March of 2023.

Exact dates and locations are yet to be finalized and will be announced in a future *Natural Links*.

RECRUITING

2022 FALL RECRUITING

Wed., November 2--EMU
Thurs., November 3--Bluffton
Fri., November 4--Goshen

Mon. November 7--Hesston
Tue., November 8--Tabor
Wed., November 9--Bethel

Mark your calendars! More info to come at a later date.

CAMP UPDATES

Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA, www.sprucelake.org

Spruce Lake's new AGAPE Internship Program has been a wonderful asset this year, with three people serving at Pinebrook and six at Spruce Lake. The nine participants have provided enthusiastic, capable help in all departments, while meeting weekly for activities and learning sessions. In March and April, each person presented a potential problem or need to a group of executive and youth ministry leaders, and suggested ways to improve it. Their topics included staff culture/retaining younger staff, making a Spruce Lake app available, how to better market summer expeditions, and more.



Photos left to right:
Back: Natalie Loos, Tate Stone (Pinebrook), Jeffrey Kessler, Dylan Grimm, Melea Shaeffer (Pinebrook), Jonny Tice, Staff Advisor.
Front: Moraya Tellado, JJ. Franke, Kimberly Rice, Dave Magnin (Pinebrook)