



Spring
2022

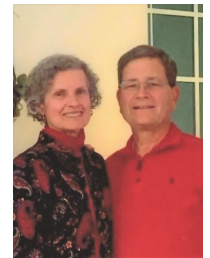


*Little Eden Camp was thrilled to have **John and Hazel Bowman** volunteer with us last summer. In the article below, they share some thoughts on their time serving at Little Eden. Volunteers are extremely important to the ministry we do all year long. We depend on them to help us accomplish our mission. Whether it's coming to a work weekend, washing tables during family camps or filling in when summer staff leave at the end of summer, we couldn't do what we do without them. Little Eden offers many great opportunities for volunteers to come and give of their time to serve. **Please let us know if you would like to volunteer this spring, summer or fall by emailing [KJ at operations@littleeden.org](mailto:operations@littleeden.org) or calling the office at 231-889-4294.***

Little Eden Echoes

Retiring to do what? *To serve*

By John & Hazel Bowman



Many of our friends who are our age have retired and now get to spend the golden years of their lives as they choose. We have enjoyed our freedom to choose what to do at a time when we are not going to work five days a week. And travel has always been high on our list of enjoyable things to pursue. So what better way to enjoy a little travel while combining it with the joy of serving others?

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan is a place we always wanted to see. So, we went to the [Mennonite Mission Network](#) page for [SOOP](#) (*Service Opportunities with Our Partners*) and found Little Eden Camp located on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Then we decided that missing three weeks of the dog days of August in Richmond, VA, in exchange for the low humidity and cooler days of Northern Michigan made for the perfect travel/service opportunity.

After a week of vacationing in the Upper Peninsula, we arrived at Little Eden Camp in mid-August. Hazel worked in the kitchen, and John worked with building and grounds maintenance. In return, we enjoyed wonderful meals and a stay in a completely equipped apartment.

Little Eden is in an idyllic setting on a small lake just a mile or two away from and connecting to Lake Michigan. There are tennis courts, fishing opportunities, sailboats, and biking opportunities. But best of all, we met so many dedicated and delightful people. When we arrived, there were about 20 college students employed as summer staff. It was so great to share from our past professional experiences with these enthusias-

tic young people. Several of them were aspiring to enter fields of service in which we had been involved. The staff and management team were supportive and appreciative. What a joy to be with all of them in such worthy service.

We worked through three weekends, enjoying midweek time off for day trips. We then meandered back home seeing more sights in Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. The wonderful memories of our time at Little Eden Camp will last forever. The heat and humidity in Richmond only lasted a few more weeks.

“But best of all, we met so many dedicated and delightful people.”

If you are retired or looking for a rewarding vacation experience, please be inspired to serve while enjoying some time away from your home. And if you find your way to Little Eden Camp, enjoy a cool Michigan summer, Thursday evening barbecued chicken, hobo grilled sandwiches from a fire pit on

the shore of Lake Michigan, fabulous breakfast cinnamon rolls, and warm Christian fellowship.



John and Hazel enjoying the sunset on a staff outing



It has been a beautiful winter, and we are now enjoying spring. During our non-summer season, we make improvements and upgrades to the grounds and facilities of Little Eden. This year has been no exception. We have been able to make several improvements to our facilities with more scheduled yet this spring.

Upgrades in cabins. We have upgraded some of the mattresses to queen size in Maplewood, Room 4 U, Wel-Cum Inn East & West and Twin Oaks East & West. The dressers and nightstands in Knot Inn have been replaced, along with several other pieces of furniture in other cabins.



Twin Oaks East and West renovations

We have also made improvements in Twin Oaks East and West. In recent years, the integrity of the drywall on the center wall between the two cabins, both upstairs and down, has continued to deteriorate. To remedy this, we installed new tongue and groove 1" X 6" pine boards on those walls. Not only does this update the look, but it also provides a surface which will withstand many more years of usage than just repairing the drywall. The aging appliances were also replaced in Twin Oaks.

Waterfront improvements. Camp was blessed with the donation of a used Hobie Wave sailboat during COVID-19. Though the boat was in very good shape, it needed a few items repaired and some lines replaced. This is currently being worked on and will be ready for summer, allowing campers to



Staff taking the new camp boat out for a test run late last fall

now enjoy two Hobie Wave sailboats on the waterfront. Also on the waterfront, we will be updating our kayaks. They have an estimated delivery date of early July.

As many of you know camp was without a speed boat last year, despite having one on order. Late last year, after waiting eleven months, the new camp speed boat arrived. This will be a great asset for camp and for the summer staff to enjoy.

One additional, exciting improvement taking place this spring is the playground. We had a family gift Little Eden new playground equipment. This will replace the current wood structure, which has served the camp very well for many years, but is aging and due to be replaced.

Other projects

taking place this spring include:

- *The house which Craig, our Food Service Director, lives in directly across the street from camp will be getting some much-needed insulation and vinyl siding.*
- *Several trees which died over the last couple of years due to the high-water level will be replaced.*
- *The stream will be dredged at its entrance to the marina to remove soil which has deposited there over the last few years.*



A section of the new playground equipment; not pictured: two regular swing and two infant swing sections

Not coming to camp this summer?

Mail in your \$35 Membership Fee for 2022 before September 30th. And if you've had an address, phone number or email change, please be sure to notify the camp office.

It is your responsibility to let the camp know of any contact information changes.

Thank you. Many of these projects have been fully underwritten by generous friends of Little Eden. We appreciate and want to thank everyone who has given! Some projects have only been partially underwritten to date. If you would like to donate toward one of them, you may send a check to camp with Special Projects written on the memo line.



Will you pray with us & share our need with others?

By K.J. Oom

Little Eden Camp is in the process of hiring both a **Guest Services Manager** and our **2022 Summer Staff Team**. *Will you pray with us during this process?* Like many businesses and organizations, we are finding it difficult to find the staff we need this year. We know that God is faithful and will provide for all our needs which is why we would love for you to join us in lifting our needs to Him.

As I have been praying and seeking the Lord about the staff we need, it reminded me how God brought me to Little Eden two years ago. I had been job hunting and asked as many people as I could to be praying for me, believing that God had the perfect job for my next experience. A good friend messaged me and told me about a Facebook post she had seen that said Little Eden had a job opening.

Her willingness to reach out to me and share about the post changed my life. I have been blessed by my job at Little Eden and feel it has been a great fit for me. God definitely brought this opportunity to me at the perfect time.

As I have been praying specifically for someone for our guest services position, I have prayed that God would show us the person who needs this job and would be blessed by joining our team. The same is true for our summer staff as well. We would love your help to get the word out. As my friend did for me, we need your help sharing about our needs so that those God has in mind will hear about this wonderful opportunity. We look forward to seeing the great things God has in store for Little Eden Camp!

Here is information about each position:

Guest Services. We are looking for a full-time, Guest Services Manager to join our year-round team. This person will provide leadership for day to day marketing, booking and hosting of non-summer guest groups. This is a salaried position which includes benefits. To read the job description and the qualifications required, please go to our website at littleeden.org. If you are interested in being considered for the position, please send a resume to admin@littleeden.org.



Summer Staff. Are you 18 or older, in college and looking for a great opportunity this summer? Want to build your resume while still having fun and serving others? We

still have positions available for our all-summer staff team. Working at Little Eden is a great way to gain leadership experience, meet new life-long friends and make an impact on youth and families. You can apply online at littleeden.org today. **Have questions?** Call or text KJ at 630-294-6382.



Make plans to attend the Spring Work Weekend: *May 12-15*

Come to camp this spring and help us get Little Eden ready for the summer season. We will be doing some preliminary work on **Thursday, May 12**, and then working all day **Friday, May 13** and **Saturday, May 14**. Housing and meals are provided for those who volunteer. Meals will be served from Thursday lunch through Sunday breakfast. If you want to come earlier in the week to help prep projects for work weekend, we would love to have you.

Work projects will include spring cleaning inside and outside, several carpentry projects, wood chipping the new playground, staining the laundry building, splitting firewood, putting docks in, cleaning up the grounds, prepping camp for the summer season and more.

Please contact the camp at office@littleeden.org or 231-889-4294 to let us know how many will attend, when you will come and what meals you will eat here. Any and all help from ALL ages is greatly appreciated.



We hope to see you there!

Creation care: *Little Eden continues to become more energy efficient*

Over the past several years, the staff have been very intentional on taking cost-effective steps to make **Little Eden Camp** more energy efficient. A few years ago, we updated most of the 4-foot fluorescent light fixtures around camp to LED. We did this through a rebate program from **Consumers Energy** which covered approximately 80% of the cost of that project. Since then, we have continued to update the 2-foot fluorescent lights to LED, using rebates when available as well.

Most recently, Little Eden participated in the **Energy Analysis Program** with our power company. Although we had already been replacing incandescent light bulbs with more efficient bulbs whenever possible, Consumers Energy went through all of camp's facilities and replaced over 750 incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs at no cost to the camp. Most were 60-watt bulbs which were swapped out with 9-watt LED bulbs.

We are also looking into installing motion sensors and programmable thermostats in some locations as well as updating some of the older outside lighting around camp to LED. Staff are pursuing potential rebates with the power company to help cover some of the costs of these improvements.

Our desire is to continue to care for God's creation by being better stewards with our electricity consumption, reducing our impact on our world, and in turn saving the camp money (or at least lessening the inflationary rise) on utility bills.



Consumers Energy swapped out 750 incandescent light bulbs at camp with LED bulbs at no cost to Little Eden

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Youth Campers:

Register by April 15th and save \$25!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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LITTLE EDEN CAMP

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