

# In Touch

December 2008

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director- Earl Taylor

## A place set apart

### Tentative Summer Schedule 2009

June 1-6 - Summer staff  
training

June 7-12- **Pio./Expl./WIT 1**  
Includes Pio. Horse,  
Pio. Wild. & Fishing.

June 14-19-**Clim./Pio./WIT 2**  
Includes Pio. Horse,  
Fishing & Wilderness

June 14-16- **Lil' Climbers**

June 21-26-**Adv.Camps/Int'l  
Camp /WIT 3**  
BB,VB,PB,Eng.Horse, Horse Wild.

June 28-July 1-**Climbers/Lil'  
Climbers/Expl. River  
Adventure-Boys/WIT 4**

July 5-10- **Expl./Pio./WIT 5 -\$279**  
Includes Horse, Basket-  
ball, Shooting, Creation camp, River  
Wilderness for Expl.

July 12-18-**Trailblazers/WIT 6**

#### T3/AW Camps

**T3-1 --June 7-19--AW1**

**T3-2 --June 14-26**

**T3-3--June 21-July 1--AW3**

**T3-4 --June 28-July 10-- Greenbroke**

**T3-5 --July 5-18--AW5**

**T3-6 --July 12-July 24 \*New!!**

**T3-7 July 19-31 \*New!!**

**T3-8 July 26-Aug. 7\* New!!**

*\*We have added 3 more T3 camps to  
help us host other camps that use our  
facilities when our summer programming  
is over. These include lower camp fees.*

Lil' Climbers: Pre-K -1st  
Climbers: Grades 2nd & 3rd  
Pioneers: Grades 4-6  
Explorers: Grades 6-8  
Trailblazers: Grades 9-12  
Adventure Camps: 6-12th  
Wranglers-In-Training (WIT)  
grades 7-9  
Assistant Wranglers (AW)  
grades 9-12  
The Timothy Teams (T3)  
Grades 9-12  
International Camp  
Grades 3-8

*Our camps are geared for the  
grade going in to in the fall.*

For nearly 30 years, Hidden Acres has moved along at a steady pace; not too quick of growth, but not too slow... as Goldie Locks once said, "Just Right!" I have been privileged to be a part of nearly 25 of those years.

I remember well those early years; no facilities, no tools or equipment, no money to do anything; lots of work to get the camp started and built up. Those were great years for me.

When we were called to Hidden Acres, I had worked at the girl scout camp near Boone for 6 years; I knew a little about camping... but not much. I didn't arrive at Hidden Acres with a vision for the camp; I had a strong back, and perhaps a weak mind. We jumped head first into a project that would flourish. Today, Hidden Acres is the largest camp in Iowa, and it is the "first choice" of retreaters. Thanks for playing such an important role of supporting the camp with finances and participation.

....and now there is more....

I have shared with you in the past about the need to keep expanding the programs of the camp. One of my desires is to begin a Leadership Development program for young men 18-22 years of age who wish to understand the workings of a ministry; we want to prepare

young men who might go into full time camping or local church ministries.

These six to ten young men **will begin next August 2009** on a 9 month course of study, work, and ministry that we pray will enrich their personal lives and prepare them to be effective and productive in the future. There will be regular class room work, outside speakers, daily chores around the camp, and weekend interaction with retreats. There will be opportunities to develop budgets, plan building projects, create marketing materials, provide customer service during weekend retreats, and begin to understand how a ministry functions.

If you know a young man who is looking for some direction, but perhaps not finding it in a conventional class room, have him give Ryan Graden, 515-547-2751, a call and discuss the possibilities. This is not a Bible school, but a hands-on learning experience with practical application to the inside of ministry life. One of my favorite sayings is, "95% of ministry is cleaning toilets.... And if you can't do that with a joyful heart, you probably won't be called to do anything any higher!" It would be our desire to train, teach, and guide young men who will have a servant's heart; men who will anticipate the needs of others and respond cheerfully and diligently.

### End of the year Gift

I just read for devotions from Psalms 146:3, "Do not put your trust in princes or mortal men who cannot save...." I must tell you, I wasted all summer and fall watching the political battle, hoping and praying... only to be so disappointed come November 4th. What a good reminder to me to view our time on earth from a heavenly perspective, and not through the eyes of a feeble man.... Our thoughts are certainly not His thoughts... and for that I am glad... I am glad He has the comings and goings of this earth in His hands.

I have watched the Lord supply our needs at the right time again this year; when it was time to pay for the cement on the motel, a check came from the estate of a friend of the camp... right on time. When it was time to pay for some lumber, another check came in memory of a loved one who past away this spring.

I love to watch the Lord work out the details for His work. My gray hair has not come from worrying about the finances of the camp; it comes from hiring 120 staff every summer and relying on them to do their job with sound judgment and a discerning spirit!! I have always seen the Lord provide for whatever project or financial positions the camp might be in.

I thank you in advance for sharing with us as we wind down the year; our year end gifts sustain us through our leaner winter months and allow us to stay current. Please use enclosed envelope for any year end gift.

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## Take Note: Schlichting Inn Update

***What a difference a month makes; at the end of October, there were no boards sticking up from the cement; as of December 1, we are getting ready to shingle the meeting room. Under the direction of Seth Peterson, our construction coordinator, we have made great progress; our goal is to have the building shingled before Christmas or before the first big snow.... We just might make it.***

***27 new motel style rooms; a meeting space for 150, a new pond nearby to heat and cool the building; Wow!!! What a neat functional building. Each room will handle a family of up to six, and a couple rooms will have beds for up to 8. Complete with a bathroom. (No more community showers!) We are not accepting reservations quite yet, but after March 1, we will have a sense of where we are on the project, and will invite our Labor Day Family Campers to reserve rooms. We would hope that we can dedicate this new facility during our Labor Day weekend.***

***We will be looking for work crews after January 1st. Our staff will do the electrical and plumbing, but we will need sheet rockers and carpenters to help us finish out the building. Contact Earl if a work crew can come up for a day or two.***

***We are still in need of churches or families to underwrite individual rooms. Contact me if you wish to contribute to a room in memory of a loved one. We are placing plaques in each room that is underwritten by churches and families.***



***Note: We are calling it the Inn instead of the motel... so that our community doesn't think we are setting up business to compete with the local motel business.***

### Mark your 2009 Calendar.....

January 23-25- District Men's Retreat

Jr. high retreats-Winter Blast—4 weekends

Jan.30-Feb.1; Feb.6-8; Feb. 13-15; & Feb. 20-22

March 27-29- 24 Hours with the Guys

March 20-22 - Young Professionals \*New this year

May 8-9 Just You and Me, Dad

May 14-16 Home School Retreat

May 22-25 Memorial Day Family Camp

\*New this year is a retreat for the young professionals who don't fit in the "just married" or "raising kids" classes in Sunday School. Speaker is John Berglund and cost is \$75. Watch the website for further details!

### Ten Most Wanted List

1. Hay rake
2. Commercial zero turning mowers
3. Bull dozer
4. Log chains
5. Battery chargers
6. Hay bale rings
7. John Deere Gator or something similar
8. Fire circle rings
9. Video projector for the Inn
10. 54 queen size beds for the Inn