

In Touch

from Hidden Acres' Executive Director

December 2010

A place set apart



Jr. High District Winter Blast for 4 weekends in January and February.

Future Events to Attend!

New Years College and Young Adult Retreat
Dec. 31-1.

Former Iona Hawkeye basketball player Jess Settles is the speaker.

Mens Retreat

Jan 21-23

Jerry Van Cleave is speaking

"I Love Hidden Acres"

banquet at the Meriden E. Free Church. February 13. 6 p.m.

Come hear the good report of your camping ministry.

Sportsmens Retreat

March 25-27

Terry Baxter will be speaking

Golf Retreat

April 29-May 1

Tom Moretti will be the teaching pro and seminar leader.

"Just You & Me, Dad"

May 6-7

Senior Spring Fling

May 17

by Earl Taylor, Executive Director

A Wonderful Life

Call me a sentimental sap, or call me a traditionalist, but I like the 1946 classic, "It is a Wonderful Life". I like the character of George Bailey and his life story. I even like the clumpy, chunky angel Clarence. The scenes of George seeing what life would have been like if he had never been born was painful to watch.... The drugstore scene, his brother's near drowning, the town becoming Pottersville; but it sparks a thought in me:

"What if the camp were not here? What would happen without the camp? What has been the lasting effects of Hidden Acres?"

On Thanksgiving morning I opened my email to find a nice surprise note from a former staff member. It read:

"I worked at Hidden Acres in the early 90's and my time there made a huge impact on my life. I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you do to impact young lives for Christ. I have so many great memories from my time there and still maintain a lot of great friendships that were developed and cultivated at Hidden Acres. It was a time of preparation in my young life and I am so thankful for it. In fact, I still memorize scripture all the time and a lot of that started during my time at Hidden Acres.... :) (Just thought you would like to know that!)"

Anyway, I write a daily blog and I am currently writing through the book of Hebrews. This past week I got to Hebrews 4:12, which was one of the theme verses the second summer I worked at Hidden Acres and I wrote shortly about that experience and how it helped set the course of my life. I attached it to this email in case you want to read it.

www.jcblog.net We don't always get to know the impact we have on others this side of life, but even the smallest of things can be huge. I wanted you to know what a difference you made in my life. Thank you so very much!"

Julie Bussey Camarin

As a Facebook spectator, I am able to keep up on the lives of many of our former staff and campers; what joy it brings to my heart as I hear great reports of how the Lord continues to work in the lives who were touched by a summer or two of ministry with the camp. The little disciplines learned at camp are being kept alive as kids seek to grow in real knowledge and real understanding.

I thank you for being with us over the years and praying with us and for us as we pour into the lives of campers and staff. Our prayer is to remain vigilant and available to do the work that we are called to do: faithfully and with due diligence. The Lord is always faithful and more than willing to work through our lives.

"I Love Hidden Acres!"

I hear those words all the time from campers and staff. Some even call the camp their home away from home.

Camp is an easy place to become attached. Campers love us because of the spiritual decisions they have made while here during the summer. Older youth love their weekend retreats. And families love their family time during one of our weekend family camps.

I personally love Hidden Acres because I get to see people transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for supporting our efforts and making all this possible. Blessings to you this Christmas.

Earl and the staff....

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How our summer staff are hired!!

We have started the process again: hiring 150 young people to work along side of us. In order to ensure a quality staff, both Ryan and Katie go through a thorough process of hiring each staff.

Our biggest asset is our summer staff; we can build all the beautiful buildings and have the best programs and curriculum written, but without dedicated young people to carry on the work of operating a summer camp, we are lost. We are committed to hiring the best possible young people available.

Applications can be downloaded through our website: www.hacamps.org. Four reference forms need to be filled out by former employers, pastors, friends, and a teacher. After all the info is returned to the office, we begin a personal interview with each applicant.

The Results: Great Staff! Even as I reflect back on the summer of 2010, I realize just how good they were and how well they behaved throughout the summer. I didn't have one staff person in my office for some direct consultations!!! They did great!

We have hit the road re-interviewing former staff and begin to recruit new staff, so if you know a young person who would fit well into our culture for 8 weeks, encourage them to apply. If there are questions regarding what is available, phone calls can be made to Ryan or Katie at 515-547-2751. It is a paid position, and we feed your kiddo for 2 months; that is worth \$ in your pocket.



Evie and Seth

Staff News: **Seth Peterson**, our Construction Coordinator at the camp, is married. Seth and Evie (Earl & DeDe's daughter) were married in November. Seth has worked at the camp full time since 1998. Seth and Evie live in Nevada where Evie is owner of Farmhouse Catering. They are planning to build a new home north of Boone next year. **Zach Slotter**- Construction Assistant is engaged to Megan Arentson. **Katie Northey**- Program Director- has begun the process to go full time to the mission field. **Paige Smith**- to deliver baby girl in January. **Elly Mullen**-to deliver baby girl(?) in March.

Building Projects: The dedication of the Inn was held over Labor Day weekend. Our guests have used it every weekend and many days during the middle of the week: The consensus: **They love it!** This 150 bed, 27 room Inn is a blessing. The camp house has been insulated and new siding has been installed.. Our goal this winter is to renovate several of our older lodges with some much needed updates. The Main Lodge is now 25 years old and is needing some TLC. New carpet and tile; Bathrooms updated; Kitchen reworked. There is always a project to give towards. Contact Earl if you would like to help us bring life back to the older buildings.

Ten Most Wanted or NEEDED!

1. Wildlife art prints
2. Fence posts-wood or steel
3. Gator type vehicle
4. Picnic tables (We added 20 this year with your help!!)
5. Water slide for lake
6. Back packs with frames
7. Dump truck
8. Electric clay pigeon throwers
9. Garbage truck
10. Ice Skates and cross country