



January
2017

Little Eden Echoes

A Master Site Plan update: *Why this vision*

Little Eden Camp has been impacting families for years and even generations. Many have been able to witness firsthand the far reaching impact on immediate family as well as extended family over the years through the youth camp program and family camps. As the ongoing trend of the breakdown of the family continues in the United States, time spent at Little Eden has allowed relationships within families and among multiple generations to grow, which in turn has helped mold our families and young people in very positive ways. It has helped strengthen relationships between parents and their children as well as grandparents and their grandchildren. And, it has helped fortify marriages and familial bonds.

We believe, and statistical data agrees, that families who spend time together in Christian community building deep relationships with each other and with God are more likely to not only stay together, but thrive together. At Little Eden, we have been blessed to see the fruits of many families thriving for over 70 years.

Little Eden has also been impacting young people since its inception in 1944. One of the many ways we see the impact on young people attending our youth camp program is how many of them make first time commitments or rededicate their lives to Jesus Christ while at camp. We hear testimonies each summer from campers who have experienced life-changing events at camp.

Another way we see the impact on the current generation of young adults is how many of them want to serve on summer staff here, some for up to five years running. Campers want to work here to give others the same experience they have so enjoyed. While they are on staff, we are blessed to witness their growth spiritually and relationally into servant-hearted leaders, who learn skills and godly character traits they will use in all of life. Most years we have more applicants than we can hire.

By the grace and provision of God and the camp's foresight and good stewardship practices, thousands of youth and families have been impacted by Little Eden Camp's ministry in its 70 plus years of existence.

Continuing the vision.

To continue the vision that the original five men who founded the camp had, and to meet the needs of the next generation of families that are here today, we need additional cabin space – to house growing families who

already attend Little Eden and to begin to address the needs of the 546 different people on the waiting lists. Some of these people wait 30 years to get a chance to bring their family. By then, some of their families are grown and have missed that unique opportunity to spend time at family camp and build those relationships. *The mission of Little Eden is still the same - it is "to provide a Christian environment that nurtures and encourages relationships to God and to others through fellowship, worship, camping and education."* As the camp board has been looking at how to best carry out that mission, it is clear that expanding, including across the road, is necessary.

Expanding will allow more families to enjoy family camps as a whole family and continue to have those shared memories that they so cherish. The youth camp program will be able to more effectively reach young people for Christ and have more adequate facilities to minister to those coming to camp. We will also have the flexibility needed as we continue to minister to churches and families year round.

Where we are headed.

As we stated in the October newsletter ([available at http://www.littleeden.org/newsletters.html](http://www.littleeden.org/newsletters.html)), we need to know what Onekama Township will allow Little Eden Camp to do and how we can expand. In order for us to get that information from them, the township required we submit a proposed master site plan in writing (shown in the October 2016 Newsletter). Submission of this plan will open dialogue with them and get us feedback as to what they might be willing to consider. We are hoping to initially hear back from the township by late May or early June. If we get some response from them before summer, we will have an update for families at camp each week.

As previously noted, *what we have given them is only a proposal. It is fluid and subject to change. It is not a final plan.* Depending on the planning commission's feedback, along with camper feedback, the Camp Board & the Master Site Plan Task Force will continue to shape what the final plan will look like.

Please pray.

We ask that you keep praying for this process that God will continue to guide the camp in His will. And please, if you have questions, comments or ideas, contact us. We value your feedback and support.



Experience Little Eden in the winter: *Come up and enjoy the beauty!*

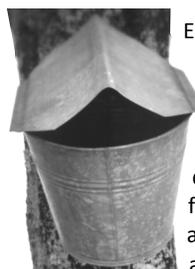
All of us know the beauty of Little Eden during the summer, but those who have experienced it during the winter have come to love camp in a whole new way. Winter is a beautiful time to enjoy the white snow covering the evergreen trees glistening in the sunshine. To be the first one out of the cabin when there are no footprints anywhere in the fresh snow is just breathtaking and awe-inspiring.

Activities abound in the winter too – whether it be outdoors cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, skating, downhill skiing, sledding, walking the icebergs on Lake Michigan, helping with maple syrup or indoors reading a book, sitting by the fire, making a puzzle, playing games, and visiting with friends. We have many weekends open in cabins and a few in the lodge!

One weekend to consider would be **President's Day Weekend** (February 17-20) when many schools have winter break. There are lots of activities happening in the area (see the Calendar of Events for more details). And to make your weekend more relaxing and enjoyable, there is food service available. For reservations, contact Lynn at camp today!



Maple syrup volunteers needed



Each March, Little Eden makes maple syrup. We tap about 35 trees with 50 taps, collecting sap each day the temperatures rise above freezing. Each tap will produce an average of 10-20 gallons of sap in a season. It takes about 40 gallons of sap boiled down to make one gallon of maple syrup. It's a fun few weeks, collecting sap and making syrup! If you are interested in learning more about the process and want to volunteer, contact Wayne at camp.



Family Camp Packets

Please return forms before March 1st.

If you haven't received yours, please call Kathy at 231-889-4294 or email her at office@littleeden.org



Like us on Facebook

Get the latest camp news and stay up to date with what is happening at camp while you're not here!



Photo Contest winners

Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures for the **Little Eden Photo Contest**. We had many photos to choose from for the contest and to use for future publications, promotions, the website, etc. Here are the winners of a **\$25 gift certificate** to the **LE Gift Shop** for each category:

Camp Scenery: Nicole Maust



Camp People: LT Newland



People's Choice: Jesse Wyse



President's Day Weekend: February 17 - 20

It's a long weekend and a great time to come to Little Eden to ski, skate, sled, ice fish (it's also Michigan's Free Fishing weekend), snowmobile, snowshoe, participate in Winterlochen at Interlochen, Betsie Bay's Frozen 5K, Ranger-led Snowshoe Hikes at Sleeping Bear Dunes or just relax inside a warm cabin. Meals available. Call to reserve a cabin today!

Scrapbooking Retreat: April 20 - 23

We still have room for you - download a brochure at <http://www.littleeden.org/scrapbook-retreats.html>

Work Weekend: May 19 - 21

Help with spring cleaning, building projects and repairs as we prepare for the summer.

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Junior Youth Camp: June 11 - 16

(completed 6th, 7th & 8th grades)

Boys & Girls Camp: June 18 - 23

(completed 3rd, 4th & 5th grades)

High School Camp: June 18 - 23

(completed 9th, 10th & 11th grades)

Download Youth Camp Registration Forms at www.littleeden.org or contact the camp.

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Pre-Family I Week: June 10 - 17

- No resource person or camp program.

Pre-Family II Week: June 17 - 24

- No resource person or camp program.

Genesis Week: June 24 - July 1

TBA

First Family Week: July 1 - 8

Justin Graves of Tulsa, OH

Christian Fellowship Week: July 8 - 15

Tim Miller of Naubinway, MI

Home Builders Week: July 15 - 22

Dave Elkins of Archbold, OH

Christian Business/Professional Week:

July 22 - 29

Jeff Reichenadter of Indianapolis, IN

Second Family Week: July 29 - August 5

Cal Emerson of Owosso, MI

Farmers Week: August 5 - 12

Bill Holsopple of Archbold, OH

Rest & Relaxation Week I: August 12 - 19

Jeff Polen of Apple Creek, OH

Rest & Relaxation II/Home School Week:

August 19 - 26

Ned & Debbi Wyse of Camden, MI

Lifetime Activities:

August 26 - September 2

- Biking, Hiking, Relaxing, Fishing, Beaches

- No food service, resource person or camp program.

Enjoy any of the above activities or just come to enjoy Little Eden during a quieter week of the year.

Golf & Fellowship Week: Sept. 2 - 9

Randy Detweiler of Wakarusa, IN

Quilting Weeks:

Week 1 - September 10 - 15

Week 2 - September 17 - 22

Carolyn Snyder of Archbold, OH

Enjoy quilting either quilt weeks or just come to enjoy Little Eden in the beautiful fall.

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Fall Work Weekend: October 20 - 22

Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 21

Fall Scrapbooking Retreats:

October 26 - 29 and November 2 - 5

We still have room for you! Download a brochure at <http://www.littleeden.org/scrapbook-retreats.html>

Victorian Sleighbell Weekend:

November 30 - December 3

Call to book a cabin.

2017 Family Camps, Summer Programs & More

Thank you to 2016 Fall Work Weekend volunteers!

Little Eden would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped this past fall at the annual **Fall Work Weekend**. We had 50 people attend which allowed us to do fall cleaning and get the camp ready for winter. Other projects accomplished included staining East and West Linger Longer and Mo-Z-Inn, reshingling Mo-Z-Inn, Dream Haven and Pine Circle, building a deck on Silver Creek Chalet, cutting and splitting fire wood, distributing top soil, improving the boat slip docks, planting grass and more.

Save the dates now for **2017 Work Weekends** scheduled for **May 19-21** and **October 20-22**. Hope to see you then! 



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Little Eden Winter Golf Scramble

The Little Eden Winter Golf Scramble and Dinner will be February 8 at the Bent Tree Country Club in Sarasota, FL. This is a great day of fun, fellowship and golf with friends from Little Eden. Golf will begin at noon with dinner to follow.

For reservations or more information, contact Wayne Lambright at 574-536-6375 or C.J. Yoder at 574-361-3587 by February 1.

Wednesday, February 8
Bent Tree Country Club
Sarasota, FL

Bent Tree

Photo Credit: LT Newland



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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