

October 2020

Camp Knutson Volunteers Fall Newsletter



Greetings from the President

Happy Fall! I hope you have had a peaceful, healthy summer. Camp Knutson was quieter than usual this summer without the laughter of campers and cheers of counselors. During this “Covid Pause”, staff and volunteers have been building for the future.

Physical improvements have been made such as new attractions like the Nature Trail; maintenance work replacing decking; and shoreline restoration to preserve the beautiful grounds.

We’ve innovated using technology (like Zoom) to overcome distances, provide a “virtual camp experience”, give tours of the grounds, hold meetings with volunteers and partner camp leaders. CKV Fundraisers took place with online auctions, raising over \$200,000!

We are meeting the challenges of 2020 by “thinking outside the box”. The CKV Spring Meeting was held over Zoom; the Fall Meeting was held at the Crosslake Lutheran Outdoor Worship Center, with members attending in their cars, listening to speakers by radio.

Check out the new “Camp Swag Store”, the camp canteen brought online. For those of you who are missing your gift markets this fall, shop the “Happy Camper Gift Market” from October 8th-14th, an online auction of donated craft and gift items to benefit next summer’s campers.



Thank you to Bonnie Benson and the outstanding group of officers serving CKV this past year! I am excited to work with the new board (many continuing from last year) and welcome Kristie Roedl as our new Vice President! We are continuing to refine our Bylaws, officer job descriptions and strategic plans as an organization. We will be ready for campers to return next year!

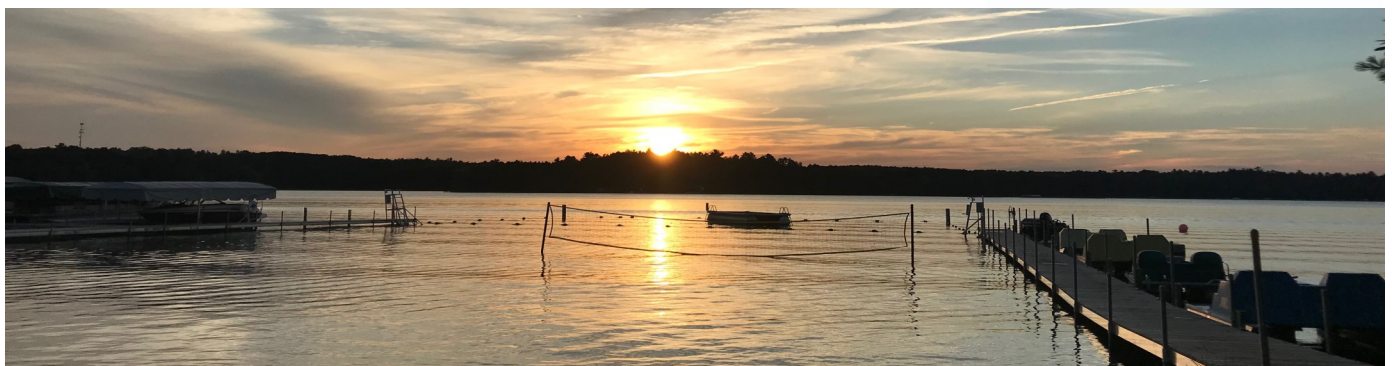
Mary Nielsen, President

Inside this issue

Happy Camper Gift Market..	2
Gardening	2
CKV 2020 Highlights.....	3
Dennie Fry Highlight.....	4
Camp Updates.....	5
Sundae Funday	6
Night Under the Stars	6
Quilt Auction	7
Camp K Swag Store	7
Wishlist	8

Important Dates

- 05/30 Sundae Funday
- 06/03 Spring Volunteer Meeting
- 07/17 Night Under the Stars
- 8/14 Quilt Auction



NEW THIS FALL!!

2020 Happy Camper Gift Market Online Auction October 8th to 14th, 2020

Watch your email for details to register to bid on this collection of 100+ hand crafted items including:

jewelry, seasonal cards, wall hangings, placemats, quilts, table runners, tree skirts and more!



The online auction opens October 8th at noon and closes October 14th at noon. This is a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping while supporting Camp K! You can pick up items at camp or we will ship them to you!

Organized by:

Penny Bryce, Beth McConville, Cindy Melsby

Questions: Please call Cindy at 612.723.0342

Gardening 2020

The gardeners have been busy this summer! Yes, we were able to social distance and keep the weeds under control in the gardens and the potted plants to help keep the camp looking fresh and alive for the visitors and staff to enjoy. We were able to plant some new perennials, move a few plants around and it was great to be able to see each other, have coffee and stay in touch over the summer. We will be putting the gardens to sleep very soon so they are ready for Spring in 2021. This is a great group of ladies. **Thanks** to each of you who were able to help! The gardens looked beautiful even though not many of you were able to enjoy them! As we look forward to seeing them grow in 2021, if you are interested in joining us please add it to your time and talent sheets in the spring.



Chair Persons are – Sharon Elmquist and Linda Gates

Volunteers are Amazing!!

Camp K was sadly disrupted in all services this year by the pandemic, including our loyal volunteers. But through ingenuity, creativity, and much enthusiasm, the staff, counselors, and CK Volunteers reached out to the campers, the community and even to improving the campus grounds.

This was an epic year of cooperation.



Thanks to each of you (34) who shared your time and effort to reach out through writing hundreds of post cards to campers, bringing a smile and a memory to each potential camper stuck at home. Thank you to the jewelry team that made beaded necklaces to include with messages to some of our campers. Thanks to the awesome ladies who gardened all summer on Wednesday mornings under the leadership of Sharon Elmquist and Linda Gates.

The staff asked and you stood up to help!

Huge thanks for the help so many of you gave to make the Night Under the Stars and Quilt Auction fundraisers virtual and visible to communities far beyond our own, resulting in a very successful year. What a year for CKV to take on the responsibility for the Quilt Auction! Thanks to all of you who worked to set up, clean up and even to participate with your bids online. We can all be proud of our volunteer chairs who spent months of planning, ingenuity, and patience as they worked for and with all of us to benefit Camp K kids! Applaud Jeanine Acker (NUTS); Cindy Melsby, Penny Bryce, and Beth McConville (QA) when you can and say “thanks”!

The staff asked and you stood up to help!

Most recently, thanks to all the volunteers who have helped close the season at camp by cleaning, painting, and now creating and building a wonderful new Nature Trail. More help will be needed even as it is completed in 2021: trail leaders, nature talks, and more construction.

Yet, with all these projects, most of you did not have the opportunity to participate or certainly not as expected. We all missed the usual fun with the campers and staff and the camaraderie with fellow volunteers. **The good news is**, CK staff are working on various projects to prepare for next year, particularly in getting the camp ready in the spring after a year of being shut down. They are hopeful that there will be a need for volunteers even with campers in some capacity. Keep watching for emails from CK staff. Remember to keep checking online to see how you can participate with Family Sundae Funday and the fundraiser plans for 2021.



So we look forward to reconnecting with each other, and welcoming those who barely had come aboard when we shut down. I am excited as we think about the **Spring Meeting 2021 in late May when we will see you all**. Stay safe.

Thanks, Ginny Hersey—Volunteer Coordinator herseyonfox@emily.net 218.821.7801

Staff Feature: Dennie Fry

Dennis “Dennie” Fry has served as Facilities Manager at Camp Knutson for 7 years. Camp Director Jared Griffin says “Dennie is like camp’s Swiss army knife. He is incredibly skilled and talented in so many different ways.”

Dennie grew up on a farm in Hastings, MN and has always loved the outdoors. After several years working construction, remodeling and roofing, he began work as a church facilities manager. One day his wife, Sheila, spotted an ad for a job at a church camp in Park River, ND and said “this would be perfect for you!” He worked there for 5 years, then at Okoboji Bible Camp in Milford, IA for 3 years before moving back home to Minnesota and to Camp Knutson in 2013.



Dennie and Sheila will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in November. They have raised two sons, one who lives next door and another in Wisconsin. They have four grandchildren and one on the way! In addition to his family, Dennie devotes his time to woodworking. “I just love making sawdust!” Look for his creations in wood at CKV fundraisers, where he regularly donates items for auction.



Dennie’s job is a mix of general maintenance, construction project manager, carpentry, staff support and volunteer supervisor. “I enjoy making connections with our volunteers,” he shares, “making new friends.” Whether mowing and yardwork, building maintenance or woodworking, they enjoy the fellowship and fun.

What has 2020 been like at Camp K without campers present? “I miss the giggling and laughter of the kids and the enthusiasm of the summer staff.” The silver lining is that it has provided the time and space to work on more projects like new decking around the dining hall and the all-accessible nature trail. What kind of “dream projects” at Camp K would you like to see accomplished? “I’d love to see a treehouse at the Point,” kind of a screened gazebo accessible by a ramp.

According to Jared, “Dennie puts his whole heart and soul into everything he does for Camp K. This combined with his ‘finer than frog hair’ attitude and positive leadership style makes him an absolute gift and blessing for all of our campers, staff, and volunteers.”

Camp K Updates

While this summer was unique at Camp Knutson, many positive events, projects and opportunities still took place. We are very grateful for the volunteers who helped with camper connection opportunities, gardening, various maintenance projects, and putting on wonderful fundraisers. Two of the highlights from the summer were Night Under the Stars and the Quilt Auction. As you know, both events were conducted in a virtual format and were still highly successful. Volunteers continued to play a very active role in that success—from collecting and organizing auction items, publicizing and marketing the events, to the follow up support. We are very proud of our community for stepping up to help in so many generous ways.

Five Camp Knutson summer staff spent a few weeks at camp to collaborate with one of our camp partners to facilitate virtual camp for campers. The staff planned games, activities, conversation topics and non-virtual activities that campers completed on their own time. We had about 60 campers join us—all who thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to connect with each other, meet new friends and participate in a few camp activities.



We have been busy with many other projects around camp! The deck of the Dining Hall was stripped and completely redone, the large beach hill was paved, a half court basketball court was added by the waterfront area, the ins-and-outs of the new ski boat were learned, more plants and vegetation were added to the shoreline project at the point, and many hours have been put in to begin constructing our new fully accessible nature trail (in the woods to the left as you drive in). The nature trail is 5 feet wide, will be 800 feet long, is made from a lifetime composite wood and includes an outdoor classroom in the middle of it. Educational components will be added throughout the trail for campers to learn about their surroundings. We are excited to welcome back the campers to all of these new updates!

Cooper, Caitlin's goldendoodle and the camp dog, is off at eight weeks of advanced obedience training. Once he returns, Caitlin and Cooper will complete both the American Kennel Good Citizen and Therapy Dog tests. The hope is for Cooper to be integrated into camper programming for Summer 2021.

If you are around this fall and are interested in seeing all of the updates, or simply want to come see all of the beautiful leaves, feel free to give us a call! Again, we are so grateful to have such strong support throughout the entire year. We look forward to hopefully seeing you all again in the spring!

Take Care, Jared, Caitlin, Josh and Dennie

Sundae Funday—May 30, 2021



Camp Knutson Volunteers will host a free community event at Camp Knutson on Sunday, May 30, 2021 from 11 am -2 pm. This event is for all ages!! Fun games and tours of the camp will be available to enjoy. Free walking taco's and ice cream sundae's will be served and has been a hit for the visitors in the past. This is an event to make the community aware of the camp's purpose and to get a better idea of what happens during the summer for the campers. It is also helpful for new campers to see what the camp looks like and for the parents to be able to directly see the campus and meet some of the staff.

Our food chairs are Susan Derus 612-209-9454, Carolyn Forney 612-817-5830 and Cheryl Evenson 763-478-8562 and these ladies will be looking for volunteers to help with the food preparation and to help serve on the day of the event. We will be looking for several more volunteers as the time gets closer to help with tours, serve sundaes, etc. If you have helped in the past or are a new volunteer it is a great time for you to meet new people, get to know the campus and enjoy the fun. The chair persons for Sundae Funday are:

Lori Nelson 651-246-7292 lorinelson@brainerd.net

Linda Gates 507-202-9374 Gates.lb@hotmail.com

Linda Thurk 952-215-6183 LMTHURK@emily.net



CKV present Night Under the Stars, "That's Amore!" Saturday July 17, 2021

Join Team NUTS (Night Under the Stars) and help plan this amazing event on the grounds of Camp Knutson in 2021.

The theme will be "That's Amore!"; picture an Italian bistro vibe, with red/white checked tablecloths, sunflowers, casual decor, plated meal from Maucieri's and Italian tunes playing in the background all on the beautiful grounds of Camp K.



Volunteers are needed in various areas to lead and help in tasks such as:

Parking, Registration, Silent Auction, Signature drink stand, Set Up and an Event Co-Chair.

All areas have previous volunteers who will mentor along the way so you will be supported and guided if needed. At this time no fall meeting is scheduled, though updates will be forthcoming to the NUTS Team, please call/text/email Shari Schumacher if you are interested in learning more about the opportunities to volunteer for this event - Camp K Volunteers need YOU!

Event Co-Chair: Shari Schumacher; 727-698-4474; dsschumach@gmail.com

35th Annual Camp Knutson Quilt Auction

Saturday August 14, 2021

Planning is already underway for the 35th Annual Quilt Auction to be held on Saturday August 14th, 2021. Please mark your calendars! We hope to have everyone back at Camp next year for this fun day. Please join us!

Volunteers are needed in various areas such as:

Parking, Registration, Photography, Geek Squad (technical assistance), Silent Auction, Live Auction, Concessions.

****No Quilting Experience Necessary****



Drop off for quilt donations will be at Camp Knutson or The Log Church between May 1st and July 1st 2021. We encourage people to turn in their quilts early!!

Please contact Cindy Melsby to learn more or with questions: 612.723.0342 or melsby2000@outlook.com

2021 Quilt Auction Chairs:
Penny Bryce, Beth McConville, Cindy Melsby

Thank you for all of your time, talents, energy, creativity and love you share with everyone in the Camp Knutson Community! We are grateful for YOU!!



The Camp Knutson Swag Store is now online!! Looking for a T-Shirt, Sweatshirt, Zipup, Hat, Sunglasses or a coffee mug? We now have you covered anywhere you are located as we have all of our merchandise online. Give to yourself or give as a gift! You can pick up your items at camp or we can ship them to you for \$5/item. Check out what we have: <https://ssmn2020campkstore.ggo.bid/bidding/package-browse>. If you have questions or need help, please call or text Caitlin at 608-632-4201.



Camp Knutson 2021 Wishlist:

- Picnic Tables
- Nature Trail Education Components
- Tree planting
- Bathroom updates around camp
- Sport Court
- Paddleboards



Want to receive all Camp Knutson mailings, such as the Annual Report, Spring and Fall letters and more? Call camp at 218-543-4232 to add your name and address to the mailing list!



Camp Knutson also has an Amazon Wishlist! Check it out at:

<http://a.co/fGRcUM2>

Camp Knutson
11148 Manhattan
Point Blvd
Crosslake, MN 56442
Phone: 218-543-4232



2020—2021 Volunteer Board Members