



# Spring 2021

## Alumni News

### Spring 2021 is here....

The summer of 2020 was difficult for everyone but both Camp Wyandot and Camp Otonwe were unstoppable and operated safely. Because of the pandemic both camps were only allowed to operate at half capacity. Even through we had to implement guidelines, require masks, and use lots of disinfectant both camps were still fun and memorable. Our thanks to the staff of both camps for their commitment to providing a safe experience.

Both Otonwe and Wyandot attracted new campers and served many loyal returning campers and staff.

Camp Wyandot's overnight camp ran 7 sessions and served 310 campers including 20 CITs with less staff. We were recognized by Hocking County Health department as one of very few Ohio camps that were able to operate in 2020. The news media visited camp and reported on how camp was the same or how it was different with the



summer.

Despite the challenges and restrictions of the pandemic Otonwe Day Camp at the John Beltz Retreat Center ran 7 weeks. Although the numbers were also limited, we were able to serve 130 campers and that was more than we had in 2019. Deb Zawacki has served as the seasonal Day Camp Director for 4 years. She always adds new ideas and creativity to the program. Day

extensive Covid regulations. ACA reported that approximately 80% of overnight camps across the county did not run last

Camp registrations are nearly full and we are looking for more staff.

As I reported last year a tree fell on the Papoose Cabin in 2019 and the cabin was not repairable. With the

insurance money we were able to build a new Papoose cabin for use this year. Another tree fell on the main electric line early this summer and



caused extensive damage to the electric and septic system for the rest of the summer.

This past fall the pandemic created greater interest in outdoor experiences and Camp Wyandot rentals were busy. Thanks to Ariana Mills (Nawnee) for planning and recruiting staff to help with a great in-person Halloween in the Hills at Wyandot.

We had a very successful but unusual Zoom Luncheon and Silent Auction in November thanks to the work of Nikki Spretnak, the luncheon committee and the volunteer room hosts. This was so successful a new spring event has been planned "Nature is Calling". (See the announcement later in this newsletter)

Kit Goodwin, our office manager was extremely busy with registration changes and cancelations throughout the summer and is already busy with new registrations, waiting lists and helping to keep the office running smoothly. Chuck Woodrum Jr. the Facilities Manager continues to address the challenges of busy summers and year-round facility management. My thanks to Alice Foeller for her devotion as outgoing Board Chair and look

forward to working with Lina Taylor, the new Board Chair, and the new board.

Looking ahead I am proud to announce we have a new camp director Olivia Ecklos (Sparrow) for Camp Wyandot. I will continue to be the executive director and move to camp to work with Sparrow this summer. See more information in the next article. We all know that the pandemic is not over and expect many of the regulations will be required for this summer. However, as the registrations are coming in both camps are nearly full and we are planning for another successful and unstoppable year in 2021.

**Connie Coutellier, Executive Director**

## **Announcing Olivia Ecklos (Sparrow) as the New Camp Wyandot Camp Director**



"I am beyond elated to return home after my travels and serve as the Overnight Camp Director this summer. I have had the privilege of growing up at Wyandot as a camper, CIT, counselor, and then leadership team member. After my 10 consecutive summers at

Wyandot, I ventured out to Shenandoah National Park, where I served Camp Dogwood as their Rites of Passage Program Director. I also facilitated groups of all ages at Indiana University's outdoor learning center, Bradford Woods, leading nature hikes and teaching environmental education. I returned to Indiana to coordinate 5th grade field trips for Monroe county and manage a team of Professional Outdoor Instructors.

I have experienced the magic of camp and all it has to offer youth. Friendships and memories that last a lifetime, new adventures every day, and a beautiful, safe place to call home. In the midst of a challenging and surreal world we are living in now, I have faith in Wyandot's future and the campers that trod along it's welcoming paths.

'Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.' - Albus Dumbledore"

## **Native Hills are Calling - A New Spring Event**



After our virtual luncheon by Zoom last November the luncheon committee decided to hold a Spring event, "Native Hills are Calling." The event will be on April 10th at noon. There will be a half hour presentation about what is new at camp, and what never changes! After that, we will break into rooms of special interests. We learned a lot about virtual meetings last time, and are pretty sure we can get everyone into the right room at the right time!

When you register for the event, you can indicate what is of interest to you. We hope this becomes an annual event, a way to connect with each other though miles away. Please check the blog for a post about this event, and use the convenient link there to register. You will receive a zoom link at the e-mail address you used to register, on the day before the event.

## **Plein Air Watercolor Workshop**

Our second Plein Air Watercolor Workshop at Wyandot was very successful. Our adult campers found it enjoyable and its popularity is growing! The event is four days and three nights, starting with dinner and an evening session on Sunday.

Artist Lisa Schorr, who teaches watercolor at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, in Lancaster, will return as our instructor. Lisa also offers private lessons in her home. Each day you can expect helpful critiques, lectures and demonstrations. Whether you are an artist or not, this is a wonderful time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Camp Wyandot. Walk the trails or sit in the shade of hemlock trees and enjoy the evening sounds of frogs, owls, and whippoorwills at night. Further information is on the website.

## Alumni Gatherings – Estate Planning

On February 20, 2021, we held a “Special Estate Planning Alumni Event” and those who attended thought the information was very helpful. We thank William Good, probate and estate planning attorney, for meeting by Zoom with Camp Wyandot alumni. William’s clear explanation of estate planning and the legal implications of a major illness or death were much appreciated.

To avoid confusion, if you wish to leave a bequest to us, it is recommended that you update your will to designate Camp Wyandot Inc. as the recipient. If you have any questions, contact us. For those of you who have included a gift to Camp Wyandot Inc. as part of your will, we are very grateful. Wyandot Love!

We try to include information about those friends that have passed away on our monthly blog. If you have information about a loss please help us share with our Wyandot friends by letting the office know.

## Summer Camperships

Every summer we offer camperships to families who need a bit of help sending their children to camp. These camperships allow children who may not otherwise be able to attend summer camp to have memorable and educational experiences.

This year with the pandemic, children need camp more than ever and our campership funds are low. Camperships come from a variety of grants, donations, the flower sale and calendar sales. Camperships do not cover the entire camper fee, but are figured based on financial need. In 2020 we were only able to offer camperships to 21 campers from our donors or the Community Foundation. This was only about half of the camperships we were able to give in 2019 and we hope to have the funds to fill more requests in 2021.

We have a larger group of applicants and would love to be able to award camperships to as many families as possible. We are asking for your help in offering a wonderful program to more children.

## Give Back to Camp Wyandot

Camp Wyandot, Inc. is part of both Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile. If you designate us as your charitable organization, we receive rewards every time you shop! Contact [info@campwyandot.org](mailto:info@campwyandot.org) for more info.

## Camp Wyandot Flower Sale (See Enclosed Flyer for information and order form)

By participating in our Flower sale, you will not only make your yard more beautiful, you will also help more children enjoy the sights, sounds, smells, and experiences that can only be enjoyed at camp. All proceeds will provide financial assistance for children to attend Wyandot Overnight Camp and our Day Camps. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to participate in this special sale!

**Order Deadline:** Thursday, April 8, 2021

**Flower Pickup:** Saturday, May 8, 2021

**Pickup Time:** 10:30 AM to 12:00 noon

**Pickup Location:** Camp Wyandot, Inc. parking lot at 1890 Northwest Blvd., Columbus, OH 43212

**Thanks for your support.**

## Wyandot Spring Work Day

We are planning for a spring work day on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the overnight camp. We might expand this into a weekend, depending on permissions. Lunch is included on Saturday. Stay turned to see if there will be an option to choose to stay longer.

We have lots of projects requiring a variety of skills and really need help. It is very helpful if you can let us know if you would like to join us. There is no cost but we need to know the count for lunch and project planning. There is a form to complete on the website.

## Update your Contact Info

**We don’t want to miss you! Please visit our website and re-register as an Alumnus with your current information!** If you are unable to access the website, please notify the office at 614 481 8227 or email [info@campwyandot.org](mailto:info@campwyandot.org). And don’t forget to register or update as a member of Camp Wyandot – dues are only \$25.00.

Please “Like” our page on facebook (go to the main page of Camp Wyandot face book)  
<http://facebook.com/campwyandot/>

Alumni may join the Camp Wyandot Alumni Group on Facebook. Moderators will need to approve your membership request.

## Camp Wyandot 2021 Board

Lina Taylor, Chair  
Kendra McErlean, Secretary  
Mike (Juan) Hadra, Treasurer  
Sharon DeLay  
Jamie Foltz  
Lisa Graham  
Beverly Gish  
Joel Schaefer  
Matthew Smith  
Nikki Thomas  
Vance Tope  
Connie Coutellier, Executive Director



### Upcoming Dates

#### Flower Sale

Orders due April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Pick up day May 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30 – 12 pm

#### Nature is Calling Event

April 10<sup>th</sup> noon

#### Work Day at Wyandot

April 17<sup>th</sup> & perhaps the 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Camp Otonwe Day Camp Starts

June 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Camp Wyandot Overnight Camp Starts

June 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Alumni Weekend

August 13-15<sup>th</sup>

#### Fall Work Day (weekend)

September 18<sup>th</sup> & perhaps 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Halloween In the Hills

October 21<sup>st</sup>

#### 18<sup>th</sup> Camp Wyandot Luncheon

November 6<sup>th</sup>

### NATIVE HILLS

Native hills are calling  
Calling you and me.  
O'er the hills we travel  
To the heart of thee.

Fading campfire embers,  
Help us to be true,  
And each heart remembers,  
Thoughts of camp and you.



Camp Wyandot, Inc  
1890 Northwest Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
614 481 8227  
[www.campwyandot.org](http://www.campwyandot.org)