



Spring 2022 Alumni News

Looking Back on 2021 Highlights...

Summer Camps. As we concluded our second year of operations during a world-wide pandemic that we know is not over, we pause to reflect on our losses, celebrate our successes and look forward with newfound resilience and opportunities that lie ahead. Covid 19 changed our lives but also demonstrated there has never been a greater need for the camp experience.

Despite the challenges, 2021 was a very successful year. Parents recognized the need for the outdoor socializing experience children had been missing. In 2020 we were required to only operate at half capacity. Recognizing the success we had that first year, the health department allowed us to continue in 2021 and to take more campers.

Otonwe Day Camp was held again at the John Beltz Retreat Center North of New Albany. The camp operated for 8 weeks under the leadership of Deb Zawacki and served 230 campers...a 100 more than in 2020. This was her 5th summer as a seasonal director and the highest attendance in 5 years.

Camp Wyandot overnight camp operated 7 weeks with a new director Olivia Eckols/Klimczak...Sparrow. She focused on the program and staff leadership. She did a



great job but is newly married and will not be able to return in 2022. Margie Dooley, Assistant Director/ Business manager and I provided support behind the scenes and served as cooks along with several part-time cooks and volunteers. This past summer 591 campers and CITs attended camp; almost double from 2020.

Our Luncheon. The luncheon was held virtually again this fall. Thanks to the committee for their work to make this another successful Zoom event and Silent Auction. We are hopeful we can return to an in-person event in 2022. Mark your calendar for November 12, 2022.

The Cline Farm Preserve. At the luncheon this fall we were able to announce the new partnership with Highlands Nature Sanctuary/Arc of Appalachia to preserve the 250 acre Cline Farm. Our thanks to the Cline family for their commitment for Camp Wyandot to have permanent access through a conservation easement.



Overlooking the Cline Farm Preserve

Arc of Appalachia is the new owner, and Camp Wyandot will have private access during the summer with adult supervision. Arc of Appalachia is designing a free trail system open to the public via Camp Wyandot by 2023. With Metro Parks on three sides of our property and the Cline Farm Preserve at our back door we are now nearly surrounded by land protected from development.

Wyandot Facilities. A number of projects were completed in 2021. This was the 93rd year of continuous operation. This brings great memories but also brings challenges of full summers, year-round weather issues, aging facilities, and infrastructure management problems. The entire camp electric service was updated. This was the first year to use the new Papoose cabin. It has a full bathroom, two bedrooms and a kitchenette and is available for rentals. The swimming pool is in process of having the entire filtration system replaced. Two successful workdays were held. Thanks to Chuck Woodrum, site manager and the facilities committee plans for projects critically needed in 2022 are well underway.

Looking Forward in 2022

Summer Camp. Plans are well underway for our day and overnight camps. The camp registration opened a little later than usual but started off at record speed. Otonwe is now already full and Wyandot has only a few openings. This is about a month and a half ahead of other years. Parents are eager to provide a camp experience for their children. Kit Goodwin, Office Manager is working hard with parents to fill every slot. Our greatest challenge is again hiring staff, especially for Day Camp.



Native Hills are Calling. With another successful virtual luncheon on Zoom last November the luncheon committee has decided to make "Native hills are Calling" an annual Zoom spring event. The event will be on April 9th 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.

When you register for the event, you can indicate what is of interest to you. We hope this event becomes 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 third year at Wyandot was very successful. Our adult campers found it enjoyable and the popularity grows every year. 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. Whether you are an artist or not, this is a wonderful time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Camp Wyandot. Additional information is on the website.

Camp Wyandot Flower Sale. 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. Pick up is just before Mother's Day. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to participate in this special sale! **(See Enclosed Flyer for information and order form)**

Order Deadline: Thursday, April 7, 2022

Flower Pickup: Saturday, May 7, 2022

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

Pickup Location: Camp Wyandot, Inc. rear parking lot at 4400 North High St Northwest Blvd., Columbus, OH 43214. Thanks for your support.

Alumni Weekend. We will be holding a weekend event this year. Come join us August 12-14 for all or a part of the weekend and a special new activity. Cathy Nichols is doing a wonderful job assembling our history. But many stories are still unwritten, waiting to be told. At the 2022 Alumni Weekend we are going to gather the history of the Volunteer Camp, New Directions Task Force and CIT history. The first CIT book, documenting the program from inception to 1990, is missing. Jenny Fullin made a new book in 1991. We want to try to recreate those years that we have lost. If you have other Camp Wyandot and Camp Fire history you want to share, please join us. One of the most important steps is to write down what you remember, with as many dates and names as you can remember. Please bring this with you when you come to the Alumni Weekend. We hope to expand upon this every year. We have a long history to tell! Remember, alumni includes anyone who has had any contact with us in anyway, in short, everyone is invited! Information and the registration form is on the website.

Wyandot Spring Workday. We are planning for a spring workday on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the overnight camp. We will begin early Saturday at 9 AM, serve lunch and plan to finish projects in the late afternoon. Your entire family can help; however, children should be at least 10 years old and come prepared to help work. All volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. We have lots of projects requiring a variety of skills and really need help. There is no cost, but we need to know the count for lunch and project planning. Please complete the registration form on the website.

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. Camperships come from a variety of grants, donations, the flower sale and calendar sales. Dedicated donors and the Columbus Foundation helped us offer 37 camperships for overnight camp in 2021. Camperships do not cover the entire camper fee but are figured based on financial need. 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.

Columbus Office Moved. Due to several increases in the lease, the Columbus office had to downsize and move to another location by the end of October. The new address is 4400 North High Street. Suite 413. The space is smaller and less expensive. We negotiated for free storage space in the basement.

Help Build Our Wyandot Community. Our Wyandot Community includes campers, parents, CITs, staff, Bluebirds, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Horizon Club members, Camp Fire leaders, club leaders, State Fair volunteers, members, in short, everyone who has had any connection with us in any way. Our Wyandot Community is our strength. More than once, our community of volunteers and donors have pulled us through hard times.

How do we keep people connected and involved? How can we help CITs, staff, and campers stay connected after they no longer participate in our program? How can we bring back those people who have lost contact with us?

This is not a fundraising project. We are building a community of interest and support. Donations will flow from this eventually, but that is not our goal. Our goal is to build a strong network of support for the next generation of leadership.

No matter where you live now, I hope you will attend our first meeting. Check the website to join the first meeting of the Wyandot Community on May 30th at 6:30pm on Zoom. I would love to hear your ideas. If you were unable to join us because of a conflict or the short notice we will be having other meetings and continue to expand the community. Let us know of your interest by sending an email to me at connie@campwyandot.org

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 for more information. Please join us for a Zoom call on Wednesday March 30, 6:30PM EDT. about expanding our Wyandot Community.



Update Your Contact Information. 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. And don't forget to register or update as a member of Camp Wyandot – dues are only \$25.00 for individuals and \$45 for families.

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.

Alumni Gatherings – Estate Planning. A bequest is the act of shifting assets to individuals or organizations, through the provisions of a will or an estate plan. 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.

Camp Wyandot 2022 Board

I have been pleased to work as Board Chair and thank those leading functioning committees for their time and talents helping Camp Wyandot to successfully address issues, complete goals and move forward to accomplish our mission. **Lina**

Lina Taylor, Co Chair	Kendra McErlean, Co Chair
Lisa Graham, Secretary	Mike (Juan) Hadra, Treasurer
Austin Contee	Lance Ginn
Beverly Gish	David Klinge
Coral Owdom	Joel Schaefer
Matthew Smith	Vance Tope
Connie Coutellier, Executive Director	

Dear Friends.

This summer we will be celebrating 94 years of creating memories and building pride in our camps and organization. We are growing, stable and achieving goals that continue to enrich the lives of today's youth and our community. I am proud of the dedication of our board, staff, donors, parents and volunteers for their commitment to our successes during these challenging times.

These achievements over the 93 years belong to all of us and are appreciated ...from the youngest homesick camper that made it through the week to our volunteers, donors and supporters that believe so much in the impact that Camp Wyandot has made over 93 years. Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Connie Coutellier, Executive Director

Upcoming Dates

Flower Sale

Orders due April 7th

Pick up day May 7th 10:30 – 12 pm

Nature is Calling Event

April 9th noon

Work Day at Wyandot

April 23th

Open House at Wyandot

May 1st

Camp Otonwe Day Camp Starts

June 13th 7 weekly sessions

Camp Wyandot Overnight Camp Starts

June 19th 7 weekly sessions

Alumni Weekend

August 12-14th

Fall Work Day (weekend?)

September 17th

Halloween In the Hills

October 22st

18th Annual Camp Wyandot Luncheon

November 12th



Our Mission is:

Camp Wyandot provides an inclusive nurturing environment for youth to have fun, make friends, serve others, and explore the great outdoors.

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www.campwyandot.org