



February 2021

## Camp Knutson Volunteers Winter Newsletter

### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

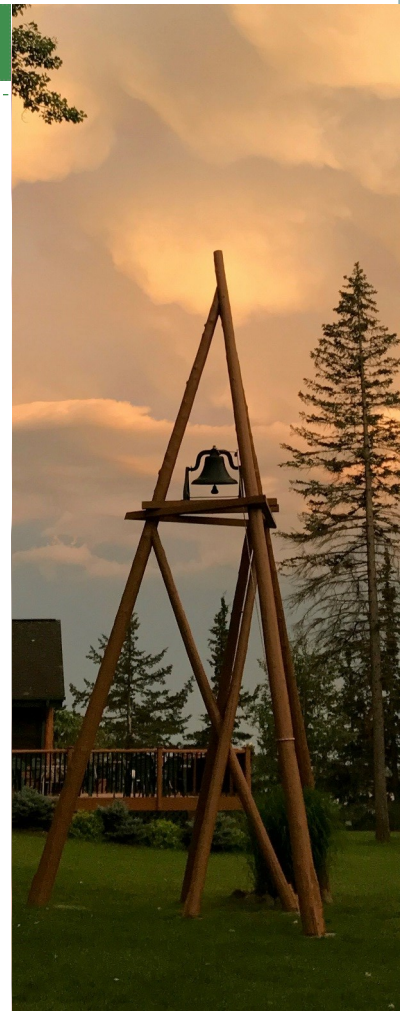
I hope you are safely weathering the recent winter storms and have either been vaccinated for Covid-19 or have scheduled appointments on your calendar. Thanks to Zoom, our board has met twice since our last newsletter and planning continues for the 2021 fundraisers. Sadly, we had to cancel Sundae Funday once again, but hope to continue this great community event in the future.

Please put Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> on your calendars and plan to attend the Spring Volunteer Meeting at Camp Knutson, if possible. We will broadcast the meeting via Zoom as well, for those unable to attend in person. We will be masked, socially distant, outdoors, and there will be no lunch served. It should still be a great opportunity to gather, reconnect and share our love of Camp K!

Jared and Caitlin are in regular communication with Camp Knutson partner organizations and will update you on plans for this coming summer. The most important news – **THERE WILL BE CAMPERS ON-SITE THIS SUMMER!** Camps may look a bit different and our roles as volunteers will be more restricted than in the past. However, there is still much we can do to support the mission of Camp K. There is a checklist at the end of this letter to remind us how! Please look for ways **YOU** can contribute and contact us with your ideas.

Thank you!

Mary Nielsen

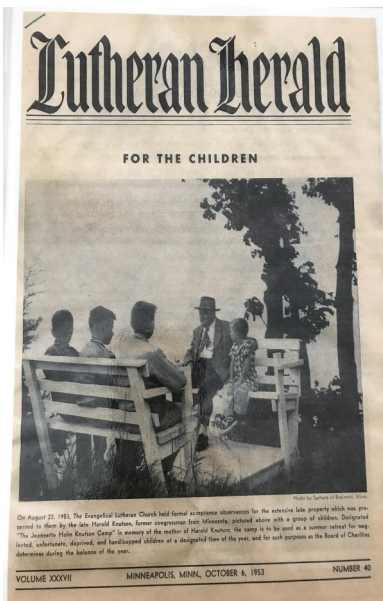


### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- New Volunteer Opportunity .....2
- Welcome Back, Laurie .....2
- 2021 Quilt Auction .....2
- Saving Our Shoreline .....3
- Thank You, Grant .....3
- Quilt Auction Tri-Chairs .....4
- 2021 NUTS information .....5
- Remembering Linda .....6
- How You Can Help .....6

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Looking ahead to 2021
- Event Updates
- Getting involved—even from a distance



## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in history? Do you like organizing artifacts and records? Are you a scrapbooker? Would you like to learn more about the history of Camp Knutson?

It's time to clean out Camp K's "attic", to sort through boxes of records of the camp and its advisory and supporting groups, deciding what to keep (and in what format) and what to discard.

We are seeking volunteers to help us preserve, interpret and share the history of Camp Knutson. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Caitlin at 608-632-4201 for more information about Camp Knutson's History Project.

**We want to let everyone know that Sundae Fun Day will be cancelled for 2021 due to COVID-19. Please stay tuned for it to return in 2022!**



## WELCOME BACK LAURIE!

We are fortunate to have Laurie Ridgley agree to fill the position of Recording Secretary for the remainder of the 2020/2021 term.

The Executive Board, per our By-laws, approved her nomination and the general membership will be asked to confirm her in this position at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Laurie has served us well in this position several times. Thank you, Laurie, for your willingness to serve!

## 2021 QUILT AUCTION

We are excited to be working on this awesome fundraiser for another year. Come join the fun and help us as "co-leaders" of one of the following areas: Live Auction, Silent Auction, Buy It Now/Fat Quarter area, Concessions, and Publicity. We are also seeking volunteers for the day of the Auction: greeters, parking attendants, golf cart drivers and a photographer.

We are still in the planning stages and would welcome your involvement and ideas! There will be Quilt Auction informational meetings coming in April and/or May (once the snowbirds return!) before the CKV Spring Meeting. So don't wait until summer to get involved! If you're interested, watch for those dates or contact one of us.

We will be receiving quilts starting May 1<sup>st</sup> - July 10<sup>th</sup>. Donations may be mailed or dropped off at the Crosslake Log Church (37218 Co. Rd. 66, Crosslake, MN 56442) or please contact one of us.

"Fat Quarters" (cut fabric to 18"x22"). It's a great way to use up some of that stash and donate to the auction if you are not able to donate a quilt or a handmade item.

Please spread the word to all your family and friends. Maybe you know someone who would love to join our team and/or donate? Then bring a friend to the 35<sup>th</sup> Quilt Auction on August 14, 2021.

Thank you for your support!

Penny Bryce (952) 201-6307  
Beth McConville (563) 271-6459  
Cindy Melsby (612) 723-0342



## SAVING OUR SHORELINE

My name is Kristie Roedl and I began volunteering at Camp Knutson in 2017. I became the WAPOA (Whitefish Area Property Owners Association) Shoreline Restoration director in 2018. I was in charge of managing grant money secured by Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation for shoreline restoration projects through WAPOA. The program is funded in part by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, Clean Water Fund.

After discussion with Jared it seemed there was significant shoreline erosion at Camp Knutson. Jared and I worked together to secure bids to address the erosion on the Trout Lake side and the point where boats pass from Whitefish into Big Trout Lake. We agreed to have Prairie Restoration do the work in August 2019. There was a biodegradable blanket installed to help secure the soil on the Trout side. Then 1,620 native plant plugs were installed and grass and wildflower seeds were broadcast on the peninsula.

In August 2020 it was determined that additional seeding and plugs were needed. We also decided that coir logs should be installed on the point to help protect the shore from the waves and ice heave. We again worked with Prairie Restoration to complete this project. After further discussion it was decided that installing Willow Wattle behind the Coir logs would help stabilize the point from erosion even more. After some research Caitlin and a crew of volunteers were able to harvest some willow, do live staking of dormant willow cuttings, plant some native plugs and create and install the willow wattles. We plant only native plants/wildflowers and shrubs with long roots to help stabilize the soil in accordance with the grant regulations. My son, Grant Roedl assisted with the watering of the project area in the fall.

Recently Jared submitted a proposal from Prairie Restoration to the Land and Waters Preservation Trust for approval. This proposal is for additional shrubs and native plugs to be planted in the spring. We should know in April if this request for funding is approved.

I am happy to say that most of these projects have been in partnership with Soil and Water and their grant funds. This is a beautiful collaboration between WAPOA and Camp Knutson for the benefit of the protecting our environment. We have discussed using the Camp Knutson site as an outdoor laboratory as we design our WAPOA knowledge-based curriculum for school age children. A big thank you to the Camp K staff and volunteers for all the watering and maintenance of the site. Shoreland restoration is a journey that we are all on to protect our shoreline and lakes for future generations.



## THANK YOU, GRANT!

In September, Grant Roedl stepped up to serve as our Interim Recording Secretary and undertook the project of developing an online archive of CKV Board of Directors records. This collection of records is housed on Dropbox and can be accessed by CKV Officers.

Grant has a Master's in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin and had most recently worked as an Intern Archivist at the Isle Royale National Park. While living with family (Kristie & Frank Roedl) in Crosslake in 2020, Grant volunteered at Camp Knutson on projects like the nature walk and shoreline restoration. When Mom Kristie mentioned our need for a Recording Secretary, Grant stepped up to fill that vacancy! He accepted a position in Pennsylvania at Charles River Laboratories in January, but worked diligently to complete his archive project for us before his departure.

Thank you and best wishes in your new position, Grant! You are amazing!



## HONORING THE TRI-CHAIRS OF THE QUILT AUCTION

As we have all experienced, the 2020 year at Camp Knutson was changed in huge ways by the COVID pandemic, leaving our counselors and volunteers with no choice but to create something virtually for the campers and families we serve. For one event, like the Quilt Auction fundraiser, online opportunity may have made it even better!! Most of the QA success this year was also the direct result of three dedicated, creative, and energetic CK volunteer leaders. Here is a tribute to their efforts and teamwork.

**PENNY BRYCE** shared, "Sewing has been part of my entire life. My great aunt had her own sports lettering business since the early 50s and my grandmother always had quilting bees at her house. I am now retired from the shop I first managed, then owned, for 50 years. In that time, we sewed many names and numbers for sport teams all over the state from little league to the pros including 49 years with the Minnesota Vikings, original North Stars lettering, Minnesota Kicks, and even some for the Twins, Timberwolves, and U of M."

In the summer of 2007, she heard Rob Larson promoting the Quilt Auction on the radio, and attended, deciding to donate a quilt the next year. Penny did not stop there...involved in NUTS, she donated a FAVRE jersey and helped with decorating. She cleaned at camp and made cards with campers. Volunteering has always been a part of life since 6<sup>th</sup> grade for Penny, helping in pediatrics at North Memorial Hospital, beginning skiing for hearing impaired, and as an election judge since retiring.

**CINDY MELSBY** told how she grew up in St. Paul and had three children from her first marriage. In those early years Cindy lost her infant son, Aaron, born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, and he continues to be her inspiration as she volunteers at Camp K. She now has two grown daughters. Cindy was employed by West Publishing for 37 years, where she met and married husband, Lee in 2000. Over the years Cindy volunteered at the Disabled Veteran Camp and Feeding My Troops, sewed for Bundles of Love, worked with feeding the homeless, and other local charities in the cities.

Following retirement, Cindy and Lee moved from Inver Grove Heights to the lakes area in 2015. Knowing no one "up north", she "reached out to neighbors and even strangers in local coffee shops." When a friend told her about Camp K, she signed up at the 2016 Spring Meeting to make cards and be a "runner" at NUTS. She got involved with the Quilt Auction through her quilt group, and helped the organizers throughout the year get ready for the event. Before long she was co-chairing both the food service for Sundae Funday for two years and the NUTS silent auction for three years with Kristie Roedl!! "I have met so many wonderful people at the camp and feel so connected with so many."

**BETH McCONVILLE** and her husband of twenty-three years, Brian, moved to the Crosslake area just two years ago from Bettendorf, Iowa. "A dream come true to be living on a lake in Northern Minnesota", says Beth. She has three adult step-children and three grandchildren. Beth works for Renewal by Andersen from home and in her spare time she enjoys volunteering, baking, reading and hosting friends and family. She learned about Camp K from a neighbor and attended the 2019 Spring Meeting, eager to find a way to meet people and get involved in the community. She volunteered in a variety of roles but it was the Quilt Auction that captivated her. Having a background in design, Beth fell in love with the beautiful textiles. "I'm not a quilter but I really admire the skills, patience and creativity that go into making a quilt."

So, last year at this time, with three talented women all passionate about Camp and specifically the Quilt Auction, certainly one of them might like to chair the 2020 event! None of the three wanted to chair the event alone and had never even worked together. But when the idea came to involve all three in leading the auction, it was an immediate "yes", and a TEAM was born. The new partnership grew their friendships into a "closely woven working relationship" that sprouted an extraordinarily successful virtual event during this difficult pandemic year. Beth dubbed the team: the "QAC Squad"! Penny and Beth both describe their experience working with the team as "a blessing". CKV is certainly blessed to have this QA team with us at Camp Knutson for 2021.





Due to uncertainty and ultimately the safety of our Camp K campers and guests, Night Under the Stars (NUTS) will be a virtual event similar to 2020.

Preliminary planning is in process to host the traditional format with unique additions.

## HOST A WATCH PARTY!

This year, we are adding a new feature to the experience. Imagine creating an Italian experience in your home by hosting a NUTS Watch Party with a small group of friends/family/neighbors. We can help you set the table with themed party boxes and food, available for purchase before the event.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Party box packing and shipping
- Silent auction basket packaging
- Silent auction set up (location TBD)
- Watch Party Captains
- Photography of silent auction items
- Registration

Please contact **Shari Schumacher** for volunteering, questions, and information

727-698-4474 | [dsschumach@gmail.com](mailto:dsschumach@gmail.com)



## Zoom NUTS Informational Planning Meeting

March 2nd at 1 pm CST — Check CKV e-blast for details

## REMEMBERING LINDA CARPENTER

Linda Carpenter, long time volunteer and friend of Camp Knutson, passed away Thursday, February 11, 2021. Linda was a regular at Wednesday morning Garden Club at camp. Living next door, she took every opportunity to participate in fundraising events and especially looked forward to the annual fundraiser "Night Under the Stars". A blessed piano player, she would auction off her piano talents for bidders who wanted her to play piano in their homes, helped raise money for new musical instruments for camp and she graciously played piano many years at the CKV Taste Luncheon fundraisers.



### 11 Ways That You Can Help Camp K

**C** - Connect with CKV leaders on ways to help.

**A**- Amazon Wish List donations.

**M**- Maintenance and grounds volunteer projects.

**P**- Purchase gift card(s) for NUTS Auction.

**K**- Know why you support Camp K and tell others about it.

**N**- Night Under the Stars and Quilt Auction volunteering and donations.

**U**- Use your unique talents and gifts to support our campers.

**T**- Think of others who would love to be a part of our mission.

**S**- Shop Local and online Camp Store.

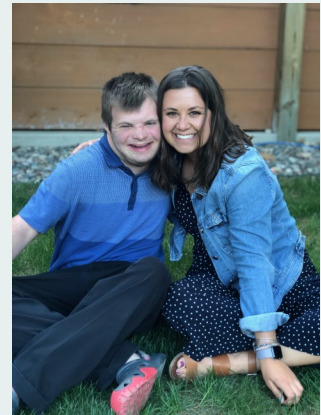
**O**- Online Event and Auction participation.

**N**- Notes and cards to campers and staff volunteer activity.

Interested in participating?

Contact Kristie Roedl at [kristieplummerroedl@gmail.com](mailto:kristieplummerroedl@gmail.com)

**We look forward to seeing you this summer and hope you all have a fantastic start to 2021!**



**Camp Knutson**

