



Drift Creek Camp

Currents

Lincoln City - Oregon

SPRING 2007

Meet the Kauffmans:

Tony and Brenda Kauffman are “coming home” to take over the leadership of Drift Creek Camp

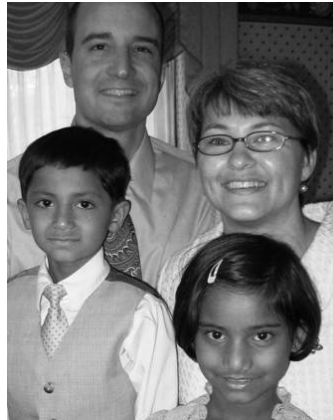
By Brenda Kauffman

When I think of going home, my mind meanders up the winding gravel road to Drift Creek. My early memories traveling up that road were in the back of my grandfather's pick-up where my cousins and I huddled in sleeping bags under the cab eating Hershey's miniatures dreaming of the fun we would encounter at the upcoming reunion.

Later I would experience camp independently. I raised the money to attend by working on my parents' farm. Somehow the reward of going to camp made the long boring hours in the sun tolerable. I recall some campers shedding tears when their parents dropped them off...I, on the other hand, cried when the week was over.

As a young adult I returned to Oregon after living on the East Coast as a nanny and then volunteering at an orphanage in the Dominican Republic. It was the summer of 1992. I was working as a camp counselor and remember being struck by the beauty of God's creation each time I drove through the Van Duzer Corridor in my blue 1978 Civic. In spite of my little car struggling its way up the road, it was as though I was seeing those mountains for the first time. I realized just how much I had taken the beauty of my childhood surroundings for granted.

In the fall of 1995 I returned to camp. I had met Tony Kauffman the summer we had worked as counselors. We could not imagine a more fitting place to marry than Drift Creek. So we gathered family and friends. We hiked, we sang, we reminisced, we ate delicious food and we married on a cool and misty September Sunday morning. I consider DCC to be one of those sacred places where things have a deep and spiritual significance. So much of my childhood development and spiritual formation occurred there that it is hard to imagine how empty my life might have been without it. Camp was about connections. Growing up in an isolated rural area made the introduction to friends the highlight of my summers.



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Introducing the Drift Creek Nature Center

What can an old growth forest teach us? What gems have we been hiding at Drift Creek Camp? Who cares anyway? These are a few of the questions I have been asking myself recently as part of a small group that formed to take on the task of starting a nature center at Drift Creek Camp. Creation care has long been an ambition of many Mennonites, but this is the first advisory committee of its kind in Oregon. The last Annual Member's Meeting November 3rd to 5th featured several outdoor activities exploring the plant life, stream ecology and birds around Camp. This served as an important reminder of the marvels existing within the surrounding forest and creek that are easily overlooked or forgotten. It also helped inspire the creation of an advisory group comprised of interested members of several churches in the Valley.

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Meet the Kauffmans (continued)

Today I find myself singing songs to my kids that I learned at camp and am eager for them to discover their own connections to God, to nature and to friends when they have the opportunity to experience camp for themselves. Tony grew up in Indiana. He graduated from Hesston, then Eastern Mennonite in 1992 with a degree in business.

After my graduation from Goshen College in 1995 with an elementary education degree, I didn't yet feel like I had sufficient life experience to offer students. Over the years I had developed a passion for baking and hospitality while Tony was a perpetual handy man. We decided to put our creative gifts to good use so we renovated a century-old building and opened a coffee and gathering place, The Electric Brew, in historic downtown Goshen. Operating the Brew has provided us with more than a decade of opportunities. On many levels, it has been both challenging and rewarding.

One of the benefits of living in a college town has been the opportunity to connect with people from other countries. One of the first international students who joined our staff was from Nepal. Soon we were learning to prepare Nepali foods and gained a better understanding of the culture. You could say that a seed was planted because several years later, when we decided to start a family, we chose to adopt from Nepal.

The adoption journey began in 2002 with piles of paperwork, homestudies, FBI fingerprints, and wading through government regulations. The process taught patience and perseverance for two do-it-yourselfers! But the wait was worth it and suddenly we are a family of four! Six-year old Shanti, whose Nepali name means peace, joined us in February of 2006. We returned to Kathmandu to adopt her little brother, Saroj, whose name means lotus, just five months later. He will turn five in June. They are energetic and delightful. Each day we are inspired by their courage. We are amazed by the lack of fear with which they are willing to experience new things. Mostly we are humbled by the openness with which they have loved & accepted us, two strangers from across the globe, as their parents. Though not easy, adoption has been a process we will always cherish. We are so blessed to be walking this journey with our children. We are eager to introduce them to the places and people that have shaped who we are. Though the Cascade Range may not quite be the Himalayas, perhaps they too will feel a sense of "going home."

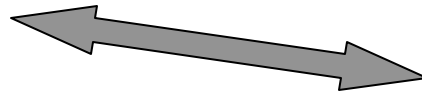


Surf Camp!

Surf camp is back! After a one year hiatus we are back in the ocean, and we are pleased to announce a change that will make it better than ever. We will be staying at a house that is walking distance from Otter Rock, our surf spot. No more long drives to camp every night, and again in the morning. If you or anyone you know who is in the seventh to the tenth grade wants a perfect opportunity to learn to surf, here is your chance. For more information and a registration form please visit www.driftcreek.org.



Does This Look Like Fun?



This summer is your chance to go whitewater rafting with Drift Creek Camp. We are teaming up with Discovery Outfitters to offer you a three day float on the beautiful Deschutes River. The stretch we will run starts at Trout Creek and goes to Maupin. Overnight wilderness camping and plenty of rapids are going to make this a trip you don't want to miss. If you are interested get a registration form from www.driftcreek.org and send it in as soon as possible because there is a limited number of spots for this trip.



Get Ready for Summer Camp



2007 Camp Schedule

Orientation	June 18-21
Parent & Me	June 22-24
Grade 9-12	June 24-29
Grade 7-8	July 1-6
Grade 5-6	July 8-13
Grade 3-4	July 15-20



Archery is back !

Some of you may remember shooting bows and arrows up at DCC. It has been many years since we have offered archery at camp, but thanks to the hard work of Steve Ogg, and donations from local businesses, we are going to resurrect the archery program at camp this year. Bowtech provided us with arrows, and a local warehouse donated huge bags for us to use as targets, but we are still in need of some bows to add to the few bows we still have that are in working order. We especially need bows for larger campers and for left-handed campers. We would appreciate donations of archery equipment, or money to buy some of the things that we still need.

Rejuvenation and work weekend

The cabins are in various stages of sheetrock hanging, mudding and taping, and being painted. If you would like to be on an e-mail list for volunteer work groups please e-mail Ken Snyder at kenmabel@open.org, or call him at (503) 362-5535. And remember, **work weekend** is coming up on May 25-27. June, July, and August are our busiest months and this weekend is vital to our preparation for the busy summer months. We invite everyone to come and join in the "fun." Meals and lodging are provided, just contact us so that we can have accommodations ready for you.

Volunteers wanted:

We still need cooks, bakers, and nurses for summer camp:

- Grade 9-12 (June 24-29) (Baker)
- Grade 7-8 (July 1-6) (Cooks and Bakers, and a camp nurse)
- Grade 3-4 (July 15-20) (Baker)

Program Director wish list:

- Big backpacks for overnight and multi-day trips
- Pvc squirt guns
- A new microphone and cord
- Surfboards
- Archery equipment

From the Oggs:

- Camp Wish List:
- Ironing board
- 30 ft. extension ladder
- vacuum cleaner (with attached hose for upholstery cleaning)



If you have any of these items to donate, or if you want to make a special gift so that we can purchase one of these items, send a check to the camp address, or contact us and we can pick it up (camp contact info. on right).

Drift Creek Camp

is owned and operated by the Mennonite Camp Association of Oregon, Inc. It is authorized under a special use permit from the Siuslaw National Forest. DCC is a member of the Mennonite Camping Association and the Christian Camp and Conference Association.

Board Members

- Steve Masingila
- Gerald Mast
- Tori McKee
- Bob Nice
- Charlene Schrag
- Ken Snyder

Camp Staff

Caretakers

Steve & Ann Ogg and Family

Program Director

Mervin Kropf

Administrator

Glenn Oesch

Please pray for the Board and staff as God uses their gifts for His glory.

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The Current at Drift Creek

May

May 18-20 Valley Baptist
May 23,24 Salem Heights Elementary
May 25-27 **Work Weekend at DCC**

June

June 8-10 Vida Neuva
June 11-13 Leland Kropf Family
June 15-17 Portland Church of Christ
June 18-21 DCC Orientation
June 22-24 Parent and Me
June 24-29 Grades 9-12
June 29-July 1 Chinese Faith

July

July 1-6 Grades 7-8
July 6-8 Islamic Center of Portland
July 8-13 Grades 5-6
July 13-15 Oriental Mission Church
July 14-20 Grades 3-4
July 20-22 Gerig Family Reunion
July 22- August 3 American Missionary Fellowship

August

August 4-10 Fairview Mennonite Church
August 12-17 Highland Community Church

Introducing the Drift Creek Nature Center (continued)

In its aim to share the wonders of Drift Creek's uniquely undisturbed ecosystem with people of all ages, the advisory group penned this mission statement for the center: *Developing awareness, appreciation and stewardship of Creation through education, exploration and interaction with nature.* The center, which has been named Drift Creek Nature Center (DCNC), does not yet have a projected date for a grand opening, but its website will soon be available. There you will find the strategic plan, the mission and vision statements, proposed programs and a place to give input and donations.

Currently, the group is meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at the Straub Environmental Learning Center in Salem. There is still much work to be done, such as expanding cooperation with the forest service, developing programs, identifying how the center will sustain itself financially, and finding qualified students, volunteers and staff who can contribute to its mission.

Starting the Drift Creek Nature Center is a very exciting prospect for all involved and we hope you are looking forward to hearing more about this project, its new website and ways to get involved. If you are interested in keeping updated on the monthly progress and reports via email, send a message to John Gingerich at jandlg@mennonite.net requesting to be added to the online mailing list. Donations are also being welcomed at this time, in the form of a check made payable to Drift Creek Camp, with "Nature Center" on the memo line. Please mail donations to Glen Oesch, 2305 Rogers Lane NW Salem, OR 97304.