

Camp Woodbrooke in 2011

2011 has been a good year with four successful camp sessions, two small teen sessions, a May Day Birding and Wildflower Weekend, and the Labor Day Family Camp. We also held several workdays with some overnight camping. And we've made many new friends with families whose children were new campers. We love their enthusiasm.

Jill Tikkun and her family returned for a second year to direct the summer camp sessions. Our counselors were enthusiastic although a young group. Only one was a returning counselor, but two were former campers and helpers.

The middle two sessions had rather low enrollment, but the last session was full for boys and almost full for girls. Our total number of campers was a slight increase over 2010 and certainly better than in 2009. We still need to work on increasing the numbers. The two teen sessions enjoyed a caving expedition as well as a several day outing on the Manitowish River in northern Wisconsin. The one piece we hear over and over is how campers feel such a sense of place at Woodbrooke they want to keep returning. Forever! We love it!



Campers helped replace the roof of the Oriole cabin and also the shed roof. The garden yielded a bountiful harvest of greens and potatoes, 4 chickens laid lots of eggs, and wild black raspberries were prolific. Just think of the stories campers can tell about tar paper, shingles, nails, digging potatoes, collecting warm eggs from the nest, feeding the goats, as well as going on overnight campouts, building campfires, hiking to the various parts of the camp property and ending each day with singing by the Barn.



As of August the camp owns 42 more acres (a total of 162 acres) that include the garage, garden, retreat cabin and 40 acres of woods with some our most favorite campsites. We've had permission to use them each year, but are glad to have formal ownership. In the future we will be trying to improve the cabin so that it can be used during more of the year. It has no electricity except for what a small solar panel generates and no water, heat or insulation in the walls.

Most of the camp property is in a Wisconsin Forest Management Program and we are currently making arrangements for some mandatory cutting that will likely happen late in 2012. It challenges some of us to accept that harvesting some timber should actually improve the quality of the woods, especially when a favorite grove might disappear and the harvest will leave temporary scars on the hillsides.

A bit about camp finances: We are challenged to meet all our obligations that include staff salaries, taxes, insurance, mortgage payments and interest payments on the personal loans. We are also committed to providing generous financial assistance to campers when needed. Once again we've managed to just make it. We need to increase the number of campers (Can you help?), expand the use of the camp facilities and schedule some fundraising activities. If you have suggestions or can provide support or help with any of these, please let us know.

You are welcome to visit the camp at any time. Just phone or email us to make arrangements.