

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The work of the Camping Program Committee this year has encompassed both broad, long-range themes and hands-on activities. We followed up the BYM Staff Handbook by creating and approving job descriptions for camp counselors. Also, as mandated by the Youth Safety Policy, CPC reviews it each year, and this year we have proposed some changes.

We also created and approved Emergency Action Plans, which outline the procedures for responding to any number of emergencies at camp – emergencies that all of our procedures and training are designed to prevent.

Another program-wide initiative is maintaining good relationships with National and State Parks and Forests and ensuring that our trips comply with their guidelines, specifically new guidelines for protection of native species that affect some of the campsites we use frequently.

A major item in the long-range category is planning for a secure future for Opequon Quaker Camp. The need to improve facilities at our current location if the camp is to remain there is complicated by our leasing, not owning the property. CPC has authorized a sub-committee to visit potential options for a new OQC site as they come on the market, and that group has visited two sites. However, both the subcommittee and CPC as a whole feel that we must await more feedback from the camp community and BYM Friends generally before we move forward. You can find more details in the document entitled “Camping Program Seeks Discernment.”

More hands-on activities of CPC members have included two annual rounds of phone calls. In the fall members make calls to follow up on responses to the evaluations submitted by campers and their families, allowing us to explore any concerns they raise. In the spring, we call each family enrolling in camp for the first time, to welcome them and give them a chance to ask questions.

We have also facilitated other gatherings at our camps. We organized a 25th anniversary reunion at Shiloh Quaker Camp in September, and we have been working over the winter and spring to organize a 60th anniversary reunion at Catoclin. In addition, we have stepped up our participation in the Family Camp Weekends, a joint project of CPC and Camp Property Maintenance Committee. These weekends, which continue to see increasing attendance, offer newly enrolling families a change to see the camps, allow returning camper families a

chance to catch up, and create a workforce to maintain and improve our camp facilities.

STRIDE (Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments) groups in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington DC, and Charlottesville have been a force of positive change in our camps as we journey toward radical inclusion of our campers and staff of color. STRIDE members are largely Young Adult camp alumni, and their activities include fundraisers, community events, and practice hikes with incoming campers. We are eager to strengthen our connection with STRIDE groups.

Last but definitely not least, CPC wants to thank BYM Friends for your support in getting the bathhouse built at Catoctin. This tangible evidence of BYM's care for its campers will endure for generations, and we are grateful for your support.

Sarah Williamson and Betsy Krome, Co-clerks