

Special Times

News from Camp Mowana, home of Hoppy's Cave and beautiful Fleming Falls.

WINTER 2004

Camp Mowana

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From the Director...

I took a long walk one night several weeks ago. It was a warm and balmy, beautiful star-lit night. One of those late autumn 'gifts' before the cold weather really sets in. There was no one else in the camp. Just the cracking of the trees swaying in the breeze, the dry leaves blowing across the ground, the sound of the water falling along Chipmunk Creek, and the occasional rustle of a startled deer darting off through the brush. I'm not normally able to ever really 'retreat' at Mowana. I live *and* work here, after all. But that night was different, and I felt God's presence in a very real way. It was, among other things, a reminder to me that Mowana really *is* a very special gift. A consecrated place, a special place 'set apart' for me, for you, and for the whole church. A place to 'be alone' and a place to 'be with.' As you navigate the frantic maze of daily responsibilities in *your* life, don't pass up the gift of Camp Mowana that is here for you.

Eric Kretzmann, Director

Opportunities Expand

Is your local elementary school looking for a great place to hold outdoor education? Mowana's Outdoor Learning Experience (M.O.L.E.) offers a variety of quality, tailor-made outdoor education curriculums suitable for either residential or day programs. Mowana represents an excellent, affordable option for outdoor education! Give Mike Hughes a call at 419-589-7406 for more information.

Is your business or local civic organization looking for comfortable meeting facilities and good food in a beautiful, natural setting for its next conference or workshop? Mowana's new Fleming Falls Retreat Center offers the perfect setting for week-day meetings and seminars. We offer a special mid-week conference package. Call us at 419-589-7406 for more information.

Think Summer... Think Summer Camp... Think Summer Camp at Mowana!

Summer 2004 at Mowana promises to be another *awesome* summer of fun, challenge and, above all, growing together in the faith! Mowana will be offering a full range of **youth camping** programs for children and youth, Kindergarten through Senior High, including some new and expanded opportunities. The 2004 LOMO Summer Brochure is being sent to all ELCA congregations in Ohio, as well as to all of last summer's campers. If you would like additional copies, you can contact Mowana at 419-589-7406, or the LOMO Office at 1-800-431-5666. Giving the kids you care about the opportunity to attend camp at Mowana is one of the best investments you can make in their spiritual futures!



In addition, Mowana's successful **family camping** program will again be offered next summer for two weeks during July. Family camping at Mowana offers a unique opportunity for families to spend quality time together in a very special place apart. Opportunities include swimming, sports, hiking, campfires, canoeing, crafts and more, alongside meaningful Bible study and great worship! Housed in the comfortable, new Fleming Falls Retreat Center, family camping at Mowana offers families the opportunity to grow together in faith, while meeting new friends and enjoying new experiences! Consider inviting other families from your congregation to attend during the same week. Details are described in the LOMO Summer Brochure, but feel free to contact us at 419-589-7406 for more information.

Elderhostel Courses Coming in April

If you have ever considered attending an Elderhostel program, think about signing-up for Elderhostel at Mowana, April 25-30, 2004. Housed in the new Fleming Falls Retreat Center, courses on **Ohio's Presidents** and **Ohio's Literary Heritage** will utilize many of the excellent resources available through Ohio's various presidential centers. The week-long course at Mowana includes an all-day field trip to the distinguished Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont. Elderhostel is a widely-acclaimed program offering life-long learning opportunities for adults aged 55 and over. The Elderhostel program at Mowana has been very well received. To request an Elderhostel catalog, you can contact Elderhostel toll-free at 1-877-426-8056. You can also visit Elderhostel on-line at www.elderhostel.org. Registration and fees are handled through the Elderhostel offices.



Mowana's tenth annual Fall Colors Journey in October took participants to a variety of historic and scenic sites across Pennsylvania and Maryland, and included regular worship 'on the road.'



Looking out over Fleming Falls in the winter makes for a spectacular view!



Well over 400 people enjoyed a beautiful October afternoon at Mowana's annual Fall Festival and Benefit Auction. More than \$5,200 was raised for summer camper-ships

A Mother's Letter

Dear Camp Mowana,

I want you to know what a blessing camp was for my daughter. You did a great job of showing her how powerful and amazing it is to receive God's gifts. She experienced His love through all of you. She is now on a mission to find the "lost sheep" in her day-to-day living.

After camp, I told her to remember this feeling... how strong it made her feel. This past week was tough for her. She is back in the high school environment where kids are cruel. I prayed specifically for God to lift her and help her through this difficult time. I woke up the next morning thinking of the words to a camp song the girls had sung on the car ride home... **BE BOLD! BE STRONG!** I shared that with her and she went out the door looking happier and stronger than I've seen her in awhile.

Thanks again for providing the opportunity for kids to have such an amazing experience.

Sincerely,
A Camper's Mom

Upcoming Special Events at Mowana

Senior High Ski Retreats

Friday, January 2 – Sunday, January 4

Friday, January 16 – Sunday, January 18

'Diving Deep' Women's Spirituality Retreat

Friday, February 6 – Sunday, February 8

'There Is a Season' Adult Day Retreat

Thursday, April 22

Elderhostel

Sunday, April 25 – Friday April 30

'Come to the Table' First Communion Retreats

'What's in a Name?' Confirmation Retreats

Sign up soon! Multiple dates are available January through April, 2004.



**Camp Mowana is part of
Lutheran Outdoor
Ministries in Ohio**