



Dear Duane,

Spring is here! The songbirds are back, we have TWO active osprey nests, the loons have returned and we are serenaded often with their calls! That also means camp is just around the corner, and we are busy finalizing plans for an incredible summer.

Have you registered for camp yet?



Registration for 2015 Summer Programming is progressing and we are pleased to report that we are 25 campers ahead of where we were this time last year! Camps particularly towards the end of summer are showing signs of filling. Be sure to register soon to experience Clearwater this summer!

In This Issue

[Have you registered yet?](#)
[Staffing Update](#)
[High Ropes Upgrades](#)
[Tough Choice ~ Big Reward...](#)
[Spring Annual Fund Drive](#)
[Sapping update](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)

Clearwater Forest Mission Statement

Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building Christian programming, nurture active Christian community, and be a faithful steward of God's creation.

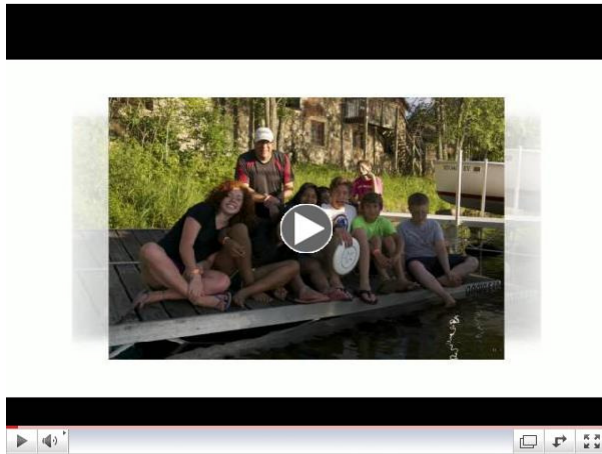
Upcoming Work Groups

In addition to the annual work weekend (May 15-17) with Spicer, Wilmar and Christ Churches and lots of volunteers on the

Our new programs (Junior High Night Owl and our new week of programming for elementary and junior high campers) appear to be popular additions not to mention our ever-popular Sr. High Endless, Beach Camp, Discovery Camp 5/6, Pedal, Paddle Dive, and Jr. High Week 6.

We have already awarded FOUR, \$25 gift certificates to the Clearwater Store for every 50th camper that registers! Be sure to sign up soon to ensure your place at Clearwater Forest this summer!

Check out our [website](#) for more information.



Some camps are starting to FILL UP!
Be sure to register soon!

Staffing Update

Our summer staff in shaping up to be another incredible group of young adults eager to share their love and grow in their faith this summer!



2014 Summer Staff

Doug Snaza will be returning again for his 15th summer as our program coordinator and is hiring a fantastic group of staff. We are still looking for a

16th, we will be celebrating three week-long work groups! They are coming from Texas, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

These groups will make a HUGE impact on the facility and program. Some of the larger projects include:

- Adding a worship circle between the kayaks and Labyrinth for evening worship/campfire.
- Renovating Loon Point and Grouse Circle campgrounds
- Painting the pavilion.
- Replacing some of the windows in Leaning Tree.
- Installing a paver stone sidewalk to connect the front and back sidewalks at Eagle Lodge.

We are looking forward to seeing how much will be accomplished as we enter the final stretch before camp starts! If you are interested in helping with our ministry, please contact us today!

few individuals to fill out our roster. Specifically, we are looking for four more male counselors, a Camp in a Van Coordinator, and the Senior High Coordinator.

Volunteer opportunities:

New this year- we have six ***Chaplains in Residence*** volunteering their time to help campers plan and lead worship. There are two more weeks that we could use assistance.

Nurses - we are looking for a few people to serve as on-site nurses/medicine manager/mom/dad to help with homesickness etc. You do not need to be a registered nurse, as all staff are trained in first aid/CPR, and if there is a major issue, we'll be using the local EMS services.

Week long volunteer counselors - we have a few weeks where additional staffing is needed - both on site and for one or two of our Camp in a Van weeks.

If you have been a staff in the past or a past camper (CIT), and are able to give us a week (or two) to get your Clearwater Forest fix, let us know!

High Ropes Upgrades

Thanks to a generous grant from Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Golden Valley, we are in the midst of a high ropes upgrade that has replaced the automatic descender, and will be adding a vertical playpen that will allow two additional entry points to the high ropes course. Below is a picture of something similar to what we will be adding.



The vertical playpen will also allow us to have our discovery aged campers be able to use part of the course - by having them belayed up the playpen to the zip line.

Additionally, we will be changing out several of the elements with updated and new challenges - the older campers will have the opportunity to work through a new

UPCOMING EVENTS



Clearwater Forest
Work Day
May 16, 2015

Clearwater Family Camp
June 12-14, 2015

Friends and Family Day
and annual 30/50 mile
Bike Ride

NOTE NEW DATE!
June 13, 2015

Registration available
at www.clearwaterforest.org

Helpful Links

[Clearwater Forest
Wish List](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

PVC Tango, cargo net, disappearing burma, and more!

We have also applied for additional grants to make more upgrades for the equipment and hardware, but won't know for sure if those are available until early June.

Tough Choice ~ Big Reward

It was the summer of 2009. My friend Jed invited me to his birthday party at a Wisconsin Dells waterpark. It was the same week I was enrolled in First Timer's camp at Clearwater Forest. Since this was the first time I was going to go to camp I had no clue what to expect. So, naturally, I really wanted to go to the Dells with my friends instead.

But my mom said I had to go to camp.

I was relentless about asking her to go to the Dells but she stood her ground. And now, thinking back on it, I'm really glad I went to camp instead. If she hadn't helped me make that tough choice, I would have missed the amazing opportunity that camp is. This will be my 6th consecutive year of going to camp every year.

I look forward to camp all year long and it is the highlight of my summer. My favorite things are kayaking and spending time with all the new friends you meet. It totally made up for not going to Wisconsin Dells!

- David, age 13, Somerset, WI

Spring Annual Fund Drive



Clearwater Forest provides opportunities for people of all ages to grow in their faith, become stronger leaders

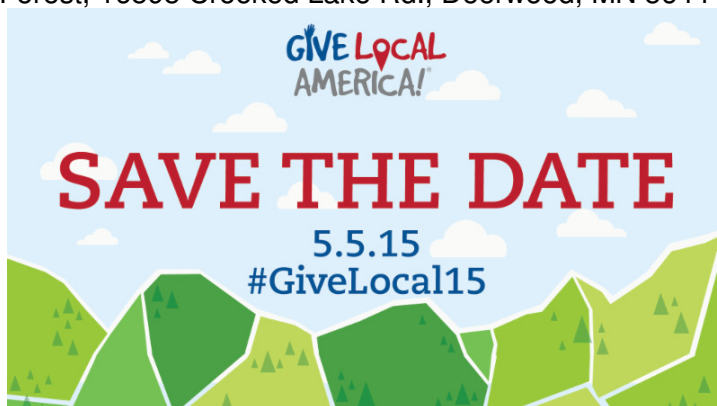
in their communities, and provide a safe place for youth to get away from their busy lives to disconnect and see God's amazing kingdom first hand. We can't do that without the incredible support of individuals, families, congregations, the four presbyteries and synod to make our ministry thrive.

We have had a long partnership with GiveMN.org each November for a successful "Give to the Max" day. That day is set aside to support Minnesota non-profits. Last year we were able to meet our goal of \$20,000!

On May 5, GiveMN and Clearwater Forest is recognizing Give Local America, a nationally recognized 24-hour crowd funding event designed to empower every person to give back to their local communities by supporting the organizations they trust to tackle today's most critical issues.

You can help us by contributing to our ministry in three ways:

1. Give online at givemn.org.
2. Set up a monthly [Agreement for Direct Payments](#) from your banking institution.
3. You can send a donation directly to Clearwater Forest, 16595 Crooked Lake Rd., Deerwood, MN 56444



We thank you in advance for your generous support!

Sapping Update



We are thankful for the volunteer hours that the "sappers" contributed to our ministry this spring.

Between eight and 15 people spent 10 collection days during the three and a half week season this spring. All commented how much easier it was this year as there was no snow compared to last year!

A total of 2,250 gallons of sap were delivered to the new processor in Aitkin. The syrup that we received is much lighter in color and compares to the extra fancy syrup found in high end restaurants!

We will be selling the pint size jars in the store for \$15.00. Be sure to pick one up when you are at Clearwater Forest this year!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the amazing things that are happening at Clearwater Forest!

In Christ,

Rich Swartwood
Executive Director
Clearwater Forest, Inc.

Clearwater Forest | rich@clearwaterforest.org | 218-678-2325