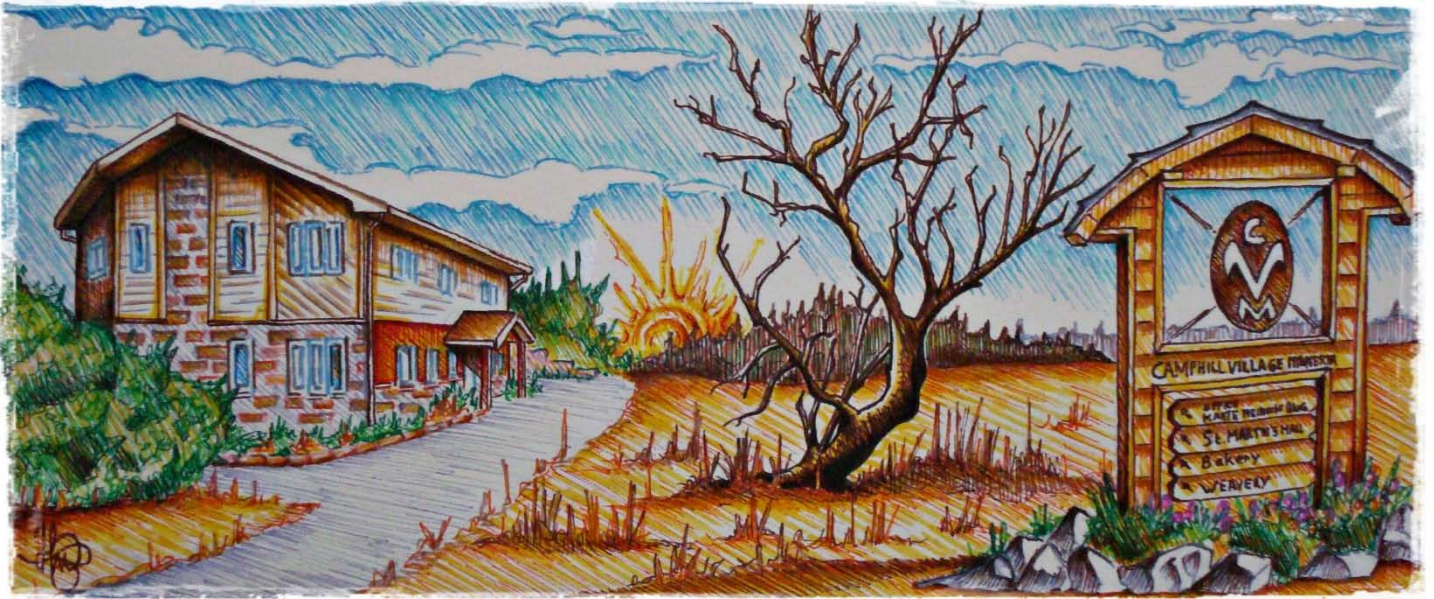


Camphill Village Minnesota

Newsletter Summer/Fall 2010



A community where people with and without disabilities live, work and care for each other to foster social, cultural, agricultural and spiritual renewal

Strengthen Community, Encourage Responsibility - AmeriCorps Service Initiative

On October and November 23, Camphill volunteers joined together to bring loads of firewood to the village from Charles Lindbergh State Park in Little Falls. Coordinated with the Minnesota DNR's Department of Forestry and the State Park Manager, these work trips satisfied requirements for co-workers participating in the AmeriCorps service initiative. Joining the tradition of efforts encouraging service by the Federal government including the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps program's goals focus on strengthening community, encouraging responsibility, creating projects for the benefit of citizens and the environment and expanding opportunities of participating member volunteers through educational grants.

The stove length rounds brought back to the village were cut from logs primarily of oak, ash, aspen, and pine, piled along the edge of a small opening in some of the park's woodland. These logs had been gathered there from wind damaged stands of timber within the park. Three houses here at CVM utilize wood-

burning stoves as their primary heating sources and several others supplement their heating with wood periodically. These two trips brought about 5 cords of wood to the village, and, along with generous wood donations by Stephanie Pothen's family and Mennonite neighbors, have the village well-stocked as we continue to enter and enjoy this year's winter season.



Along with the toil of sawing and loading the wonderful wood, those involved shared a couple of beautiful Minnesota mornings together in friendship toward a common sense of cause and good.



“How much more can the trailer hold? Give the saws plenty of room! How much heat is in a

cord? Is it hot chocolate and muffin break time yet? That one is a two person job! Look at the size of those marshmallows!”

We were filled with gratitude for the help and company of each other and the works of others unseen that contributed to our safe and successful journeys. Of particular note, a big thanks to David and Margie Rodahl from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Melrose and the officials at Lindbergh State Park is in order. Many hands make light work: thanks to everyone involved for all that you do!

Hoke Cagle

Spreading Jan’s ashes on All Soul’s Day: November 2, 2010



When I arrived at the circle of people who stood by the two linden trees, I saw in the center, red and yellow roses. The gravity of the day flooded into my awareness. No one spoke.

Ben and Sarah began giving out the roses, one to each of us. I looked to my left and noticed someone crying. I felt the sadness, too.

Then the bells rang out into the circle. We followed the bell-ringers into the sacred grove.

We saw the beautiful cross made by Andrew König. On it were written these words: “Jan Zuzalek. Bearing light and love to all the world.” In front of the cross we saw a shallow opening in the earth, perhaps only a foot deep and two to three feet wide. But the pile of dark, rich earth next to it seemed much more substantial than the hole from which it came. Flanking the cross were tall, glass encased candles, two on each side. Angela knelt down and reverently ensured that all candles were lit.

Lois read a verse, calling to Jan’s spirit. Laura spoke about the meaning of placing human ashes into the earth. Some of us brought the cleansing, purifying mood of *halleluiah* into our circle, through Eurythmy gestures. Out of this sacred mood, Angela knelt down again in front of the cross. She opened up the metal urn that contained Jan’s ashes and carefully gave them into the open ground. Some people had their arms around each other. I thought to myself how wonderful a group we are that people were comforting one another. Angela covered up Jan’s ashes with the pile of rich earth, handful by handful, reverently patting it down, making it firm. I thought of what the earth would do to the ashes. And now that I write this I recall how the seed, stable and suspended, responds to water and earth when planted.

Then, we all, in turn, set our roses on the earth that covered Jan's ashes. I laid down my red rose in a gap, making a cross with another rose. Lois told us how Jan felt very close to the image of the cross surrounded by roses. Rudolf Steiner points to this image of the cross as a symbol of the suffering of the earth. The roses are a symbol of transformation. Jan devoted her life, to bring goodness and transformation to our earthly struggles, through her loving deeds.

The bells rang out once more, this time accompanied by singing:

I ring for Joy and I ring for sorrow

I ring by day and I ring by night.

All life of mankind

All life of man is finding and parting.

*Praised be the Lord, Praised be the Lord,
Praised be the Lord,*

The creator of all.

Then we heard the soulful melodies of flutes, as our own souls came to peace.

A gentle rain began to fall, but we still heard more music as we thought of Jan, her light spirit, and her love of song and dance. Ben closed our gathering with a beautifully accomplished song on his harmonica.

In a quiet and solemn mood, we all left the sacred grove.

I walked over to the women who held the hand bells and I thanked them. Then I helped them carry a small table out of the woods.

Tal Simchoni (and Lois Smith)



CVM – Small Grains – Ecology and Machines

The 2010 growing season was graced with more rain than has been seen here in almost a decade. In addition to it being a welcomed blessing, it also began to get in the way of important things like hay curing and the proper rain-free windows to do field operations. Although it would have been nice to have more time to do those things, all-in-all it could not be appreciated more for its ability to make the plants jump and thrive as they grew during the spring, summer and fall. As the list of species that were planted and thrived during the 2010 is beyond the scope of this article, we will focus on the small grains that were planted and became part of the bountiful harvest and farm ecology and also a combine that made its new home at CVM.



Buckwheat, oats, barley, field peas, and hard red spring wheat were the grains and pseudo-grains that we planted. The spring began with chisel plowing, digging, and harrowing, followed by passes with the grain drill. Depending on the grain and its tolerance to frost, seeds were sown before or after Memorial Day – the region's accepted last frost date. Oats, barley, field peas, and the HRS wheat were planted in early May to get a jump start on the weeds. Buckwheat was seeded down on the day after Memorial Day due to its extreme intolerance to frost. The grains all contribute something to the farm and those that depend on it: soil, plant, animal, and people.

The buckwheat plants were a new addition to the grain lineup this year. Although it was planted latest in the season, it grew the quickest, forming a nice weed-suppressing cover to some 5 acres of leased land. As it grew and flowered, honey bees from all around came to visit its fragrant flowers from July until mid-September when the first frost arrived. Buckwheat honey has a unique dark color and rich flavor that is higher in antioxidants than many other common floral honeys. While the bees were above ground visiting the flowers, the roots below ground were scavenging meticulously for phosphorus that most other plants don't have the proper tools to get to. The buckwheat will make the phosphorus available to the next years hay and grain crop.

The Hard Red Spring Wheat was another new addition to the grain lineup. It was grown here a number of years ago with many weed problems. The wheat crop started out with a nearby flock of chickens grazing it by day. The result was a gradient radius of dwarfed wheat plants with the chicken coop as its epicenter, the plants getting larger as the distance from the coop grew. Despite the avian setback, the weeds, and the hail storm that came shortly before harvest time, the wheat crop was bountiful in more ways than one. The thick crop of weeds in the wheat required aggressive threshing and fan settings while combining to obtain a clean grain sample, which resulted in a number of seeds being blown out the back of the machine. The hail storm threshed a good number of seeds off the plants as well. These two factors resulted in a nice second crop of wheat after the field was plowed post harvest. Come mid October, as most of the grasses were going dormant, the wheat grass was flourishing in its blaze of growth. The cattle were sent into to graze this nourishing treat, the closest they'll get to the wheat grass smoothie. Wheat bags of cleaned wheat sit in storage waiting to be planted in the

ground next year or ground into flour for bread this year.

Oats, barley, and field peas make up the primary component of the grain ration fed to the chickens, geese, calves, and dairy cows. In addition to providing powerful nourishment to the animals, these grains provide a safe nursery environment for the newly planted hay crop that grows up within the stand of grain. The alfalfa, clover, orchard, and timothy grass seedlings are given solace under the canopy of grain during their most vulnerable stage of growth. At the beginning of August the protective beards of barley are removed with the combine and the patient hay seedlings are given full light so they can build up energy stores in their roots to make it through the first winter.

The technology for harvesting grain has followed the same exponential progression as computers. Up until the 1950's, farmers would come together during harvest time to thresh their grain with a threshing machine that either was owned by one farmer and shared with the others in the neighborhood or was brought in

by an outside party and used by all the farmers in one area. Every year more advanced, quicker machines come out; making the ones previous to them obsolete in terms of the quantity of grain they can process in one hour. Today, combines with 30 foot heads do in one day what took a week to do not so long ago. This huge advance in mechanization comes at a hefty financial price; a new combine costs \$200,000 or more. In order to pay for itself, the combine must travel nonstop around the country doing custom combining during the harvest season. This past season we made the decision to purchase an early 80's combine for \$3,500 as our usual custom harvester dropped out and others didn't want to come out for anything less than 50 acres. Having our own harvesting machine gives us the freedom to grow a diversity of crops in small acreage plots which fits in with the crop rotation of the farm as a whole. The combine performed well during its first harvest at CVM. Like any machine, this combine requires proper maintenance and care which gives us all ample opportunity to learn new skills and practice old ones.

Stephen Briggs



A Warm Thanks to All Who Give – Donations from 5/25/2010 to 12/14/2010

Individuals

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alf , Thomas | Groebel, Barry | Montgomery, Joyce |
| Anonymous | Grosslein, Antoinette | Neaton, Winfred |
| Berghold, Billy and Joanne | Gunlogson, Eric | Orr, Tom |
| Bjerke, Harvey | Gustavson , Charles | Peters, George |
| Carstens, Chris | Hall, Robert | Potter, Richard |
| Casdin, Sharon | Hanson, Harold | Potter, Virginia |
| Casper, Marcy | Hanson, Merlin and Karen | Pullen, Debra C |
| Chapro, Alexander and Sue | Hennen, Robert | Rafferty, Mike |
| Cronin, Nick and Annie | Hermann, Bill and Betsy | Ramstad, Judith E |
| Dittberner, Lowell and Audrey | High, Carol | Reed, Laura |
| Eckes, Mavis | Holden, William | Robson, Carol |
| Ellison, Jeffrey and Cheri | Jennissen, Charles | Rust, Erma |
| Engdahl, George | Jennissen, Patrick | Seidlitz, Richard and Doris |
| Essler, Robert | Johnson, Kay | Simpkins, David and Linda |
| Felleman, George and Janet | Johnson, Lynden | Smith, Anne |
| Flan, Mike and Susan Lawlor | Jones, Douglas and Mary | Taylor, Gary |
| Flanders, Hillary | Kaul, Jan | Torrey, George and Shirley |
| Fromm, Jeffrey and Donna | Kayama. Yumi | Traut, Victor |
| Gamber, William | Kowalenko, Andrew and Geri | Troia, Robert and Carol Drake |
| Geiger, Christine | Mample, David | Tschida, Vernon |
| Goan, Philip and Joan | Manning, William and Ruth Mickelsen | Veden, Doris |
| Goddard, Stephen and Anne | March, Michael and Sheryl | Warnberg, Lorraine |
| Greene, Edith | Meyer, Darryl and Jo | Yurek, Rose |
| | Miller, Ryan and Gail | |

Foundations, Corporations and Organizations

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ament Pools & Spas | Fridley Knights of Columbus | NuStar Energy |
| American Foods Group, LLC | Greenwald Lion's Club. | Sauk Centre Knights of Columbus |
| Dorothy C. Becker Fund of the Central MN Community Foundation | John Wiese Ford, Inc. | Sauk Centre V.F.W. |
| Belgrade Knights of Columbus | Knights of Columbus Grey Eagle | Sy & Sons, INC. |
| Benjamin Jacobson & Sons Foundation | Lafer Management Corporation – I | The Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation |
| Caridad Foundation | Little Sauk – Long Bridge W.E.L.C. | The Rathmann Family Foundation |
| Community Homestead | Little Sauk American Legion | The Sphinx Foundation, Inc. |
| | Long Prairie American Legion | United Methodist Women |
| | Long Prairie Knights of Columbus | |
| | Long Prairie Thrifty White Pharmacy | |

Camphill Village MN: Funding Update

Last year we were able to meet our fundraising goals for the basic needs of our operations. Thanks to all who gave in 2009 for your generous support. Even with this good news, we continue to see our operating and maintenance costs increase, challenging our income and donations to keep pace.

These increases have been created over the last five years by many different variables in the budget: from the subtlety of cost of living increases and government shortfalls, to the uncertainty of a long winter's utility bills or an unexpected medical crisis. These are all examples of ways our budget has gone in the red, two out of the last five years. If we are not able to be proactive moving forward, it could go back into the red again. We presently need to raise \$53,000 of the \$99,600 goal to fill the basics of our operating shortfall, and an additional \$95,000 towards maintenance and renovations.

As many of you know Camphill Village Minnesota continues to be one of the most affordable options for individuals with special needs in Minnesota. The local community, including

Sauk Centre and Melrose, has been a crucial link in providing a variety of not only financial supports but in-kind donations as well as volunteer service projects.

With this in mind we hope you can help us meet the Challenge Gift overviewed below, initiated by Merle Felling to encourage increased awareness in the local community. We know we can meet the challenge with the help of contributions from the Sauk Centre - Melrose Community; support that can continue to make the difference in securing Camphill Village Minnesota's future.

Felling / Scudder / Troia / Klick Challenge to the Greater Community

We are excited by the challenge gift that has been laid out by the Merle Felling family from Sauk Centre; the Robert Troia and Carol Drake family, parents of Natalie Troia; and Richard Scudder, grandfather of Chipeta Difani. Chipeta and Natalie are both individuals with special needs here at Camphill Village MN. The Klick Foundation with a \$10,000 commitment is also

part of this challenge. The \$55,000 challenge gift from these three families and The Klick Foundation encourages the greater community to raise an additional \$80,000 in support. Your donation will make the difference: for every \$2.00 you give, an additional \$1.00~ will be raised towards the challenge. If we can raise an additional \$80,000 in pledges and donations by December 31st, 2010, with the final challenge gifts donated by March 31st 2011, we will have achieved what is a significant part of our goal. We will have ensured operations and maintenance for this fiscal year.

If you have any questions on the projects, goals, or challenge gift, please feel free to contact:

Bill Briggs at 320-732-6365
or
Mary Gruber at 651-334-4684

You may send your donations to:

Camphill Village MN , 15136
Celtic Drive, Sauk Centre,
MN 56378

A community where people with and without disabilities live, work and care for each other to foster social, cultural, agricultural and spiritual renewal

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Comings and Goings

A big thank you to all the individuals who brought their energy, skills and commitment to the village:

Jodi Langens and Johannes Butscher, Elisabeth Groebel, Taylor Burbach, Eric Mc Gaughey and Eric Selle.

And a warm welcome to David Edgar, Hoke Cagle, Jochen Reich and JoDanna Kalinowski.

