



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

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Apple Butter Day

Yesterday was apple butter day. We came up to central area and put some apples through the shredder that was a lot of fun. After they went through the shredder and the bucket was full of shredded apples, we put them under the press and pressed all the juice out into a cooler. Then we got some cups and had a drink. It was good. We also sliced some apples and put them in a big pot with apple cider in it. Then we stirred it and it made apple butter.

Eric—Mountaineers



Apple Butter Day was fun. I ran the cider press and I enjoyed it very much. After I was done running the cider press I went to stir the apple butter. While I was doing it the other pot's stirrer broke. So I went double time stirring both of them, alternating every five stirs. Later on I threw the football and

soon after that it was time to eat. We had camp stew, coleslaw, and some scrumptious cornbread. After we were all full or "full" we had some dessert which was chocolate chip cookies, lava cake, yellow cake, and chocolate chip cake. It was the best I've had at camp.

Tyron—Mountaineers



Nature Corner - Trees

Have you ever stood among a crowd of strangers and looked about for a familiar face? Many a man feels the same way when he stands in the woods. He stares at the trees. They are all strangers. They stare back at him. He is a stranger to them.

Last fall we spent a weekend in our woods with Merle Yoder. Merle is a logger and a natural tree “nut”. Before he came we knew many of our trees but there was still a significant crowd of strangers. With our notebooks in hand we followed Merle. One by one we met with the trees. Some of them were strangers even to Merle, but with his woody social skills and tremendous knowledge of tree’s family trees, he soon became acquainted, then introduced the rest of us. We learned to distinguish the northern red oak from a black oak or scarlet oak. We met with interesting characters like the warty hackberry, the hawthorne, hophornbeam, and American hornbeam. When we came out of the woods we had met with at least 46 different trees.

If you’re a person who grew up near sugar maples, tapped their sweet sap in the spring, or buried yourself in piles of their colorful leaves in the fall, you know what I mean when I say this tree has an inviting aura. You feel at home in its presence. If you’re from the south perhaps it’s a stately pine tree. I have found that the more familiar I am with nearly any particular tree, including its habitat, size, shape, leaves, bark, smell, taste, and what its wood can be used for, the more I enjoy my time in its presence. I’m thinking of an elm tree that I look forward to seeing every time I hike through the valley where it lives. Recently, a boy pointed out a Norway Maple in addition to the 46 other kinds of trees we’d found. I just marveled. I’d walked by it many times and never noticed it, but he was right, there it stood.

Though our eyes are often on the trail and our thoughts on ourselves, we’re learning to see the world around us, to take it in. So with each new acquaintance we broaden our circle, until deep in the forest, we walk among friends.

Albert Stoltzfus, Program Director

Trees Tell The Story

In studying our property’s history we learned that 100 years ago much of it was open grassland. By counting growth rings on trees we felled we learned to distinguish a 75 year old forest from one that is 100 years or more. With this knowledge we have been tracing and mapping the old field edges.



Suddenly we see the forest through new eyes. The trees on these edges have lopsided crowns with branches reaching much farther over to the side that, though now forest, was once a sunlit field. The air is filled with excited yelling, “Look Chief, I never saw that before.”, “Hey! Here’s barbed wire.” Sure enough, embedded in the base of these trees is further support for our conclusions. We’re right, right on track boys!

Did you know?

- Persimmon trees are either male or female, with the females bearing the fruit.
- Aspen leaves quake in the wind because their stem is flat instead of round.
- Black gum wood is nearly unsplittable.
- The American sycamore is the most massive tree east of the Mississippi River.
- Sassafras leaves taste like fruit loops. 😊

Camp Kindling

... small pieces of camp news and needs

- 🪵 We said farewell to David and Michelle Beachy and their family last month. We appreciate their dedicated service for the past 4 years. Not only did they pour their hearts into family work but also lots of other things around camp, such as finishing touches to the office, website design, and photography to name a few.
- 🪵 Welcome to Daryl & Kendra Miller and their family. They have moved to camp from Bremen, IN and Daryl will be serving as family worker. Pray for them as they settle in to the camp community.
- 🪵 Progress is still being made on the new house for Chiefs. We project that the total cost of this project will be around \$75,000. There is still a need of \$35,000 to cover the cost of the house.