



Camp Linden Summer Views

June, 2019

Open House and Optional Overnight Camping

Saturday, July 13, 2019
(Raindate July 27)
Noon to 5:00 PM
1521 Camp Linden Rd,
West Chester, PA 19332

Tour our facilities and garden, hike our trails, swim in our pool and kayak on the Brandywine. (See Brandywine Water Trail, p. 4) Games will be set up for all ages, including a duck pond for the children. Bring your lunch and enjoy it in our picnic grove or arrive after lunch. There is no charge for the afternoon.

The entertainment for overnight campers will include fireworks and a camp fire. A voluntary contribution of \$20 per campsite covers dinner and breakfast. We have a limited supply of tents and air mattresses to lend if reserved in advance.

A voluntary contribution of \$20 per campsite is recommended for overnight camping. RSVP to campinden@phillyethics.org for the Open House and/or overnight camping.



Looking Forward to Summer 2019

This summer we expect to build on our past success, with many returning partner agencies and Camp Linden staff. We will be serving children from five different organizations from Philadelphia and Willmington, all of which have participated with us in the past.

Our Philadelphia partners are: the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia; The Netter Center for Community Partnerships of the University of Pennsylvania, with one group from Lea School and another from Comegy School; and Community Concern 13, a day care center in North Philadelphia which has been visiting Camp Linden for at least thirty years. Our Wilmington partners are Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, a multi-service community center and William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center, a recreation center operated by the City of Wilmington is a very low income neighborhood.

Our returning volunteers are Leonard Weeks, Camp Manager; Sharon Wallis, Program Director; and Joe Dubb, counselor. Ed Seniuk continues as resident caretaker. Returning staff are counselors Kateri Brehany and Giles Brehany, and lifeguard/swim instructors Katherine and Chiara O'Keefe. We have one new counselor, Matthew Kozak, and two counselors-in-training, Margaret O'Keefe and John-Patrick Kozak.

We continue to offer a six week environmental education program featuring gardening, nature walks, wading in the Brandywine, and learning about plants, trees and insects, and why they are important to us, as well as swimming. However, many of our partners will be attending only five weeks because of schedule constraints. As a result of the elimination of the corn field which served as the destination of our hike, we will be hiking a different trail, which leads to a wheat field. This trail

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Roses for Bertha

Bertha Stovall Waters left a legacy to establish a rose garden at Camp Linden. We are grateful to Dr. Carol Love for taking on this project. Dr. Love and her husband, Marvin Friedman have cleared an area along side of the entrance to the pool enclosure. Later this summer they will be planting climbing roses along the fence. After the climbing roses are established, rose bushes will be added.

Bertha worked at the Pennsylvania Department of Education, where she was the equity coordinator, ensuring that opportunities for students were not limited by gender. She retired in the 1990s after a long career. When she passed away at age ninety-five on January 6, 2018, she was recognized in the community as an advocate for the underdog (Philadelphia Inquirer obituary by Bonnie L. Cook, January 16, 2018.) At the Philadelphia Ethical Society she is remembered as its longest standing member and a person who exemplified the central values of Ethical Culture: strong personal relationships and service to the community.

Bertha shared her love of the natural world, and Camp Linden in particular, with her family. In announcing her memorial service the Waters family requested contributions to Camp Linden in lieu of flowers. The rose garden now under construction was Bertha's choice and a fitting tribute to this great lady.

Bertha was married to Lester Waters, who died in 1993. The couple had seven children. Bertha and Lester raised their family in the Belmont section of West Philadelphia, where Bertha continued to reside until she moved to assisted living.. At the time of her death Bertha's family had expanded to include thirteen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Throughout her life Bertha fought for economic and social justice. She was active in the civil

rights and anti-war movements, and was an early supporter of gay and lesbian rights. Bertha was a board member of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. She also was active with the Parents' Union for Public Schools in Philadelphia, the advisory board of the University of Pennsylvania Women's Center, and Bread and Roses Community Fund, and was a longtime member of the Belmont Community Improvement Association.



After her children were raised, Bertha went back to school at age fifty-four. She graduated summa cum laude in 1977 with a bachelor's degree from Temple University. Two years later, she was awarded a master of social service degree from Bryn Mawr College.

In 2005, the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Organization for Women honored her as an advocate for gender equity in education. In 2009, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

In August 2002, Bertha Waters made news when she got lost on a hike with a grandchild and three great-grandchildren in dense woods in the Poconos. As a thunderstorm blew in, she built a pine shelter and awaited help, the Inquirer wrote. When they were hungry, they ate wild blueberries.

"Throughout the night, we knew they were looking for us," said Ms. Waters. When the children whimpered, she led them in singing "The Bear Went Over the Mountain." They were found the next morning unscathed.

A Tribute to Bertha from Carol Love

Bertha was a mentor to so many of us at the Ethical Society and was a staunch supporter of Camp Linden and its ideals. If ever the Philadelphia Ethical Society had a matriarch it would have been Bertha Waters.

Camp Linden was important to Bertha. Being in nature reminded her of her youth in Roanoke, Virginia and living in the mountains with her grandmother. At Camp Linden her children and grandchildren could wander with ease. Bertha loved the Ethical Society annual picnic at Camp Linden - being surrounded by her large nuclear family, her adopted humanist family, and her children's friends from the neighborhood. It was important for her to have them appreciate the outdoors.

In the early days the picnic was held on the grass by the road. Family members recall Bertha and Judy Smith, wife of the leader, holding infant Aissia in the picnic area near the barn. They remember her coaxing a kid who was a little uncomfortable with nature to pet the horses or take a dip in the creek. Bertha loved to walk to the Brandywine, often trying to identify plants and trees.

Bertha was devoted to Camp Linden and its ideals. She always supported fundraising for camp. And now she has lovingly left in her will a significant donation to beautify Camp Linden with a rose garden which we will dedicate to her memory.



Picnicing at Camp Linden with Carol Love

Looking Forward continued

is shorter, but considerably wider, so we will not need to dress campers in scrubs to protect them from ticks. The time saved will help condense the program from six to five weeks.

The garden is flourishing. The peas are abundant, and many of the tomato plants are already producing ripe fruit. The pool is filled and warming in the sun. We have scheduled staff orientation and preparation on June 24 and 25. We will welcome the first group of campers on June 26.

Our Mission

To provide a camp experience for inner-city children that promotes appreciation of the natural world, acknowledges the intrinsic worth of all human beings, and encourages campers to develop self-reliance, integrity and ethical relationships.

Camp Linden Values

1. Value yourself - Keep yourself safe and open to experience and learning.
2. Value other people (especially your fellow campers) - Keep them safe and help them learn.
3. Value the Earth and all living things - (especially those you encounter at Camp Linden) Learn from observing nature, and leave things as you found them.



With Family at Camp Linden

The Brandywine Water Trail

The Brandywine runs along the southernmost boundary of the Camp Linden property. It is sometimes called the Brandywine River, sometimes the Brandywine Creek. Now it is about to be called the Brandywine River Trail. A water trail is a route along a waterway for recreational use, enhanced by connections to land trails. Water trails involve stewardship by the local community to protect and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources along the waterway.



The Brandywine Conservancy is partnering with the Chester County Planning Commission to study the feasibility of a formal Water Trail along the Brandywine—already a popular destination for recreational boaters. The study will examine the opportunities, constraints, and challenges presented by a water trail and will provide recommendations regarding access, safety, trail amenities, educational opportunities, environmental considerations, long-term stewardship of the Brandywine, and potential partnerships to promote and manage the Water Trail. When complete, the Brandywine River Trail will be a 22-mile bi-state recreational water route that connects communities, improving access to the Brandywine for increased water recreational use.

The Brandywine changes dramatically, depending upon the weather and the time of year. In the spring it can be several feet deep as it runs rapidly

past our property, and the bank is a steep three to four feet above the water level. In summer, when our campers go wading, it is slower and the up-river portion is very shallow. A broad sandbar at the edge of the bank allows easy access to the shallow water. We built stairs into the bank to enable campers to reach the sand bar.

A huge, ancient fallen tree on the down-river portion of our property, near the opposite bank, partially blocks the flow of the water. We keep campers away from the deep water which surrounds this

tree, and have them wear life jackets in case they lose their footing. Beyond this tree our property ends and the West Branch of the Brandywine turns in a southerly direction and soon merges with the East Branch, and runs past the Brandywine Museum and on to Wilmington.

Camp Linden is located about a mile down-river from Northbrook Canoe Company, a rental facility. We frequently see paddlers and tubers pass our property. Sometimes they stop on our shore for a respite. We also own an assortment of inflatable kayaks we bring out for special occasions, such as our Open House. The passage down the river is incredibly beautiful, with open country on both sides, trees above, and clear, clean water all around. If you attend our Open House you will have the opportunity to experience the trip down the Brandywine in a kayak.