



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

LAST YEAR'S GROWTH

It seems every year about mid-April, I notice it. A segment of season that we must pass through. Enough spring growth has appeared that greenery is ready to be dominant. But there are those old dead stalks. Brown, gray, and yellowish. They looked great like that in November. And they were part of Winter's palette. But now, they hardly seem to fit. Some of them are stubbly. Some sparse and straggly. Many are still standing the tallest among the vegetation, contending for a position of prominence in the landscape. Quite ugly in a way. They're okay. They're part of natural progression. But they can't stay around forever.

Looking at those old stalks, I can't help but think, "it's about time for you to go. It's springtime now. A new season. And you don't really fit anymore."

And then I realize that a similar cycle goes on in my life. The growth that God had worked in me last year, and all of last year's accomplishments... They're quite special to me. They had their season of beauty, with perhaps a glorious autumn and lingering winter to treasure them after the fact. But now, it's time for new growth, and there they stand, contending for a position of prominence in the landscape of my character.

How often do I hinder God from doing His work through me because It's too precious to me that He chose to use me before? And He's saying, "it's time to move on now. It's a new season. I'm ready for new growth." Perhaps this gives us a clearer window into the pruning that God sometimes does in our lives. That painful pruning.

Or perhaps there are implications for a group setting when it is time for someone else to bloom where we once bloomed. And there we are, sparse and straggly now. Still contending for that position in the landscape of our social scene. God help us.

All the seasons are beautiful to me, but a favorite is near the beginning of June (latitude dependent). New life has fully emerged. Last year's growth has faded. The deer have emerged too, with last year's growth fully shed from their coats. Hawks soar overhead. The greens of the grasses and trees have softened but still hold contrast, not yet darkened and dulled by summer's pressing heat. The hay fields, not yet cut, are in their fullness. Shimmering in the wind under blue skies. It's a glorious moment in time.

ALBERT STOLTZFUS -CAMP DIRECTOR

EVANS MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

Descriptions of Camp Life

WHAT STARTING A GROUP DID FOR ME

It's hard to put into words what it's like to start a group at camp. It's such hard work and great blessings all mixed together! Two main things came to mind though: starting a group gave me something to build and people to love.

I came to camp with two years of experience from Allegany Boys Camp. However, building a group from scratch is a whole different animal from joining a group that is already running. Helping a group get started means that as a chief, you have to do the work of the six other boys who haven't joined your group yet. It means you will get cussed at and maybe even physically hurt by boys who know they need help but can't change their habit of chasing the help away. It means that when someone has given up or barely thinks they can get to a better place, you have to help them lift their chins and take the next step, sometimes physically. It's like being a pioneer and building a log cabin with your broad axe and the strength of your back. It's like training a team of oxen to plow by taking them out in the field, but instead of standing behind them and cracking a whip, getting into the harness and pulling with them. In the nine months I was a Ranger chief, we did get somewhere, and we did build something. Psalm 127:1 says that unless the Lord helps build, the project is in vain. Many days we felt the Lord's help, like when prayers were instantly answered (rain that dramatically stopped) or when several boys gave their hearts to the Lord. As a chief, it was super rewarding to see boys beginning to help each other, repeat the things you said, find ways through problems, and believe in change. We began to build a group and relationships. We built tents and trails. We built routines, planned trips, and made memories. Being at camp gave me something to build.

It also gave me people to love. One highlight of my time at Ozark is the meaningful relationships I was able to develop with the other men as we worked together to start the group. I definitely did not do all this work myself, and it would not have been possible without the constant support of the other staff. I went through some difficult personal things in my time in Missouri. We say there are two reasons to come to camp: to help yourself and to help others. My experience was that helping others was a good way to help myself. I needed kids to teach. I needed kids to cry and laugh with, to canoe and hike with, to work and play with. I needed people to hug and tuck into bed and tell I loved them. Every night after we put the boys in bed I would say, "God has a plan and purpose for you" and the boys would respond with "You too, chief", and I would feel the Lord reminding me of my own advice. God helped me help myself by loving others.

WRITTEN BY CHIEF ANTHONY WEAVER



FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT

SINCE THE PURCHASE OF THE ORIGINAL CAMP PROPERTY, MANY NOTEWORTHY PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND PAID FOR. THESE INCLUDE: 1/2 MILE OF NEW LANE WITH LARGE CULVERTS FOR CREEK CROSSINGS, THE MAIN MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING, 1/2 MILE OF UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE BUCKHORN CABIN, THE STONE HOUSE REMODEL, A PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM, WASTEWATER SYSTEMS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE BUILDINGS, AND MORE. ALSO MANY PIECES OF EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, TOOLS, MACHINERY, AND CAMPSITE SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

BECAUSE OF MANY GENEROUS DONATIONS AND MULTIPLE INTEREST-FREE LOANS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY AND HOUSING NEEDED TO OPEN CAMP AND BEGIN OPERATING. ALL THE PROPERTIES PURCHASED; HOWEVER, STILL HAVE LOAN PAYMENTS REMAINING. PLEASE CONSIDER A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ONE OF THESE NEEDS.

ORIGINAL CAMP PROPERTY
PURCHASE PRICE \$1,170,000
DONATIONS \$1,060,000
FUNDS NEEDED \$120,000



TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED
TO PAY BACK ALL THE
PROPERTY LOANS

\$380,000

STAFF HOUSING
RED COTTAGE PROPERTY
PURCHASE PRICE \$295,000
DONATIONS \$125,000
FUNDS NEEDED \$120,000



STAFF HOUSING
GRAY COTTAGE PROPERTY
PURCHASE PRICE \$190,000
DONATIONS \$100,000
FUNDS NEEDED \$90,000



IN ADDITION TO THESE PROPERTY
LOANS, THE OPERATING COST OF
CAMP IS APPROXIMATELY \$50,000
PER MONTH. PLEASE CONSIDER
OUR MONTHLY PLEDGE
OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WITH THIS.





OZARK WILDERNESS BOYS CAMP
1158 MADISON 9533
FREDERICKTOWN, MO 63645



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CAMP OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 | 10AM - 2PM

Plan for a BBQ lunch and fun activities for the whole family.



STAFF UPDATE

In the end of April, we said goodbye to Chief Anthony Weaver. He did an excellent job helping us establish our first group, the Rangers. God bless you, Chief Anthony. We will miss you here.

CAMP CONTACT INFO

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SEND DONATIONS TO

Ozark Wilderness Boys Camp
1158 Madison 9533
Fredericktown, MO 63645

SCAN TO DONATE

