

The Bay News

1st Edition

9403 Camp Ln Belle Haven, VA 23306 757-442-7836 www.ootbay.org

Summer Camps...

Adventure Seekers

Bay to Bethel (Hike)

Day Camp

Horse Camp

Extreme Campers

Thrill Seekers

Up All Night Camp

Young Explorers

Camp Occohannock

A place where...

All are **Welcome**

Faith is Strengthened

Lives are **Changed**

Coming Up...

Jan 22 Polar Duck Dip

March 25 E.S. Youth Retreat

April 2 -Spring Work Day

April 7 Walk to Emmaus

April 21 Walk to Emmaus

A Word from the Director

"Don't worry, you are on the shore now!"

I can't tell you how many times I have heard that phrase since my arrival in September. It came when someone from the Emmaus community caught me trying to fix a light switch with a wood chisel. Now I wouldn't want anyone to think that (pg .3 continued)



Become A Camp Ambassador!

We are looking for volunteers to help share summer camp information with their congregations. The goal is to have one camp ambassador for each congregation in the Eastern Shore District. Camp Ambassadors help organize annual camp Sundays in their congregation for the purpose of promoting our life changing summer camp ministry. Information, materials, and video resources, will be provided by the camp. If you are interested in being a camp ambassador and want more information please contact the camp office.

Check out our
NEW WEBSITE!

www.ootbay.org

Polar Duck Dip 2022

Date: Saturday, January 22nd

Doors Open & Dippers Sign In: 11:00am

Dippers' Picture & Costume Judging 11:30am

Parade to Waterfront 11:45am

Polar Duck Dip: 12:00pm

Lunch & Fellowship 12:30pm

Register: <https://www.ootbay.org/polar-duck-dip/>



Staff Spot Light—Maggie Deering



I have worked at Camp Occohannock for 4 summers, one as a lead counselor and 3 as Waterfront Coordinator. Working at camp has led me to grow as a person more than I even imagined it would. When I began working at camp I had just finished my first year teaching. I was not going to return and thought that teaching maybe was not for me. But after working at camp all summer I realized that I loved working with kids. I have continued to teach and I am now in my 5th year. Besides helping me better my career, camp allowed me to grow in my faith. Before I started working at camp, I always went to Catholic Church but that was it. While working at camp I learned to develop my own faith, not one that my family had directed me to. I decided to join a non denominational church and follow God in that way. Camp has done so much for me, therefore it has a

Now Hiring for Summer Camp

Looking for college-aged staff who are passionate about sharing their faith and working with **children and youth**.

Staff Training - Monday June 13-June 17

Employment June 13—August 4

Salary, Room & Board, Trainings, Experience

Information about positions located on the **employment tab** of our website .

Apply online today!

<https://www.ootbay.org/employment-form/>

Wish List

- ◇ *Outdoor Decorative Stone For Main Fire Ring)*
- ◇ *Camp Truck (Moving Supplies /Equipment)*
- ◇ *Picnic Tables (For outdoor seating)*
- ◇ *Salad Bar (for toppings)*
- ◇ *Produce Refrigerator (larger)*
- ◇ *Mixer: 20 Quart commercial size*
- ◇ *A Walk in Cooler for Food Storage*
- ◇ *Compound Bows for Archery*

The camp is making improvements and updates as it looks into the future. Check back regularly as the Amazon Wish will continue to be updated. For more information contact campootb@gmail.com

Amazon Wish

<https://bit.ly/OOTBWishlist>

Eastern Shore Youth Retreat



(continued ...) I don't know what a screw driver is. The truth is, I was improvising in the moment when Walt, a master electrician, just happened to walk through the door. (God knows what He is doing!) He didn't just laugh at me, he recognized an opportunity to make a difference. He choose to provide me with valuable information on how to replace lights and switches. This led to him generously gifting the camp 8 LED lights which now provide much needed light on the cabins trail and cabin entry ways.

When I shared my concern about how I would compensate him he reminded me, "Don't worry, you are on the shore now!"

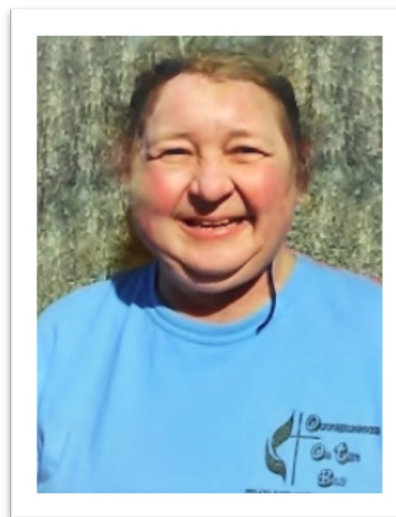
The phrase popped up again when a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Jerry, volunteered to help evaluate /repair our sailing equipment and vessels. I was amazed by his openness and willingness to offer his time and talent, and help engage others in the effort.

Those words echoed in my mind when I couldn't find a cook to care for an upcoming weekend and Mary Grace willingly came and covered the need. Again, it happened, when a rain storm brought an angel named Glenn, who offered to volunteer his time to fix our phone system to the director's house and the Lynch Center.

"Don't worry, your are on the shore " is a testimony to the kind of people that live in this community. A community that lives the value of interdependency, where people actually have one another's backs. Generosity, service and faithfulness to God are just some of the treasure I have found here!

Outsiders might only see the beauty found on the bay but with a closer look they will discover the greater beauty found in the hearts of the people that reside in this sacred and holy place.

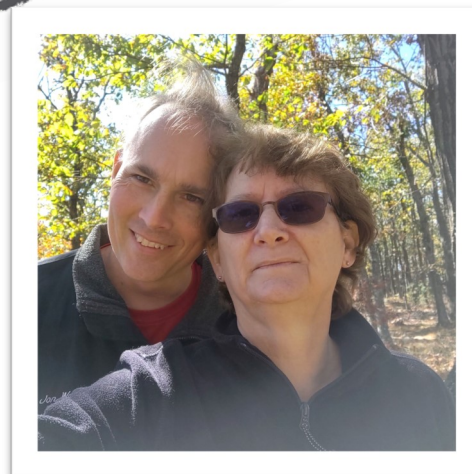
Amy Lynn Eckard



June 1, 1962 ~ September 8, 2021 (age 59)

Thank you to all who generously gave in memory of Amy Lynn Eckard. She was a special part and a tremendous supporter of the Camp Occohannock family.

Thank You!



After 6 years of cooking at Camp Occohannock, Mary Grace Woodburn is "retiring". The camp was truly blessed by her love for camp and her amazing food ministry! Thank You Mary Grace! You will be missed.

Polar Duck Dip 2022

The time is fast approaching for the annual Polar Duck Dip to benefit God's treasure on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Camp Occohannock . As you know Covid 19 has affected all of us in one way or another. We have lost loved ones, both family and friends and financially individuals as well as businesses have suffered great losses. The Camp was not spared. Many scheduled events had to be cancelled or postponed, losing needed revenue. We hope to continue the legacy of ministry of strengthening faith and changing lives since 1958.

The Polar Duck Dip is an important opportunity for us to make that happen!

Please consider "dipping" January 22, 2022. Find "sponsors" that will financially support you. Visit businesses that will contribute \$100.00 or more and be recognized (continue page 5)



Cabin 5 Needs Adopting

We are so thankful for the many churches and organizations that have sponsored our cabins. They have helped to cover energy costs, as well as, keep the cabins maintained. Several cabins have been completely transformed on the inside and now have mini split units for heating and air. Cabin 5 is in much need of repair and renovation. The group that previously sponsored it is no longer meeting. We hope that a church or group would help us bring cabin 5 up to the standard of our other cabins!

Thank You Jerry Phillips



We are so thankful for Jerry Phillips, from the Sea Scouts and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They are helping to evaluate and repair our sailing assets. All the boats have been moved to the pavilion to help organize the boats. The goal is to have the boats seaworthy and able to be used for our summer camp ministry. If you are interested in helping and/or donating to rehabilitate the sailboats please contact the camp office.

Donate: [paypal.me/ootbay](https://www.paypal.com/ootbay)

Rapid On-Site Testing Available

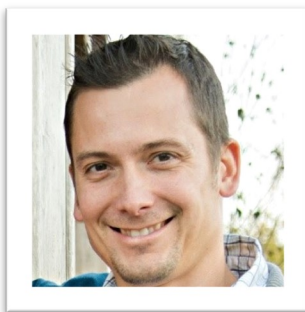
We are now able to provide Covid-19 Rapid tests to guest groups and summer campers at registration. This will help reduce anxiety about spending time at camp in community with others. The rapid test is nasal swab taken from the lower nose. The individual being tested can swab their own nose. Rapid tests take 15 minutes for results. We hope that testing will no longer be needed but we wanted to be prepared in case Covid continued to be a factor next summer!



Build Bench Project

Help Camp Occohannock furnish the main camp fire ring with beautiful custom built benches. The cost of 1 bench is \$32 and would be a simpler version to the one in the picture. Each bench requires 3.5 boards of pressure treated lumber (2x8x8). This addition would provide seating not just to our summer campers but to our adult guest groups that visit the camp throughout the year. If interested in sponsoring a bench, you can donate here: paypal.me/ootbay Please note on your donation Bench Project

Book Your Date Today



Rev. Joel N. Coleman would **love** to come to your congregation or organization and share about the ministry of **Camp Occohannock!** Whether it's Sunday School, a Youth Meeting, Adult Groups or message at a **Worship Gathering** Contact the office for more info. 757-442-7836

(Continued...) on the Camp's Webpage. All forms (registration, business sponsorship, flyers, and collection sheets) that are needed can be found online and printed as needed. Simply visit www.ootbay.org select the "What's Happening Tab" then "Duck Dip" or call the Camp 757-442-7836 and speak with Joel Coleman, Camp Manager. Join in on the fun and plan to freeze for a reason! Support Camp Occohannock.

Blessings

Fundraising Chair—Pat Johnson

Donate Now: paypal.me/ootbay

Please indicate Duck Dip on your donation