

Executive Director Report Spring 2024 Membership Meeting

Eddie DeGraw

Admin, Staff and Board work

We are happy to report that everyone is getting into the groove with their positions, including myself. The Program and Event Coordinator, filled by Noah Silver-Matews, has morphed and changed since last year and has proven to be essential. We have been able to increase programming including the new Spring Garden Institute, the Earthen Build week, and co-hosting the Equitable Pioneers revitalized event. Noah has excelled in this position and has brought his institutional knowledge, network connections, creativity and cooperative spirit to the role.

In other staffing news, we hired Benny Brewer again and welcomed Dakota Owens- Bastic for our Summer Camp Director(s) and have been meeting or communicating often with the Admin team for onboarding. This is an important year with the recertification of our accreditation from the ACA. I have been solely focused on making sure we fulfill the requirements for all the standards. The team has been working hard on hiring and are bringing in international staff this year. We have added one more week to camp and are looking forward to more fun and connections this year.

All staff continue to meet weekly at our staff meetings where we decide on important tasks and problem solve together using consensus. We focus on report backs and debriefs, look to the upcoming week, month and next few months to make sure we are planning and preparing for all programming and rentals. We report on facility repair needs, land use needs and event registrations, meal plans and special programs planned. We look at our perpetual calendar often and update it to keep the upcoming year in mind as well.

We have continued to try to follow the best practices of Open Book Management with the staff and have started to analyze the budget and actuals for staff buy in and input. This continues to lead to very creative ideas and more comradery when we are in our meetings and working on the future goals for the center. To continue this horizontal structure theme, we also all rotate chores and tasks. I continue to clean toilets and do other cleaning as well as gardening now. No one is above a job or task when we are practicing cooperative values.

As I just mentioned, I have taken more of a lead on the garden this year. I see this as following the tradition of bringing my skills to the ED role. Tom brought CPC repair and construction skills, Sasha brought group cooking and catering skills and I am bringing my 20 years of gardening experience! We have already planted more than the garden has seen in the 2.5 years I have been at CPC. Excited to see how it grows and to work the garden all summer with the campers.

As I continue to develop relationships with our Board members I am constantly encouraged by their dedication and love for CPC. I have gotten to know a number of long term board members and enjoy our Board meetings. (Yes, the meetings are fun, engaging and creative with a sense of comradery...you should join us!) I continue to sit on various committees and meet with numerous committee chairs and am proud of the work they are doing. You will hear from the committees directly but I wanted to give a shout out to the dedication and time they are devoting to helping improve CPC.

Strategic Goals Progress

-  **2025-2026 Strategic Goals**

Events

Due to an overlap of timing and a midweek date, we ended up with no New Year's event. However, Winter Camp was full with 15 campers. We spent the week doing activities decided by and often led by the high schoolers. They cooked most meals, painted murals, made snow forts and had fun making collaborative art zines, doing a jam session, watching movies and other camp activities.

Songwriters retreat was full for registration. Dede Alder is our event organizer and she brings in musicians from the EarthWorks community. The event was a success enough that we decided to try for a spring event to follow up the winter version. Unfortunately the date picked didn't work for a lot of past participants so we had to postpone.

Cabin Fever was brought back this year and had decent attendance. We had some folks attend that might have been hoping to come out for New Years but ended up waiting. We baked and stayed cozy indoors with a few adventures in the winter weather.

Maple Syrup Weekend was exciting this year. The weather and winter had cooperated and proved it was safe again to tap our normal amount of trees this year. We ended up tapping 64 trees and were led by Noah throughout the season. We had a few volunteers coming out to help during the week and were able to use the big evaporator again this year. The weekend was engaging and educational. We had our traditional pancake breakfast and made maple candies.

After Maple Weekend we had an exciting new program with Spring Youth Garden Institute. We mirrored the schedule structure of our Winter Camp and had our high schoolers return during their spring break session. Benny Brewer coordinated all the days and Baby and Erica led the gardening programming. We had a fun time teaching the teens how to drive tractors! We were able to revitalize half of the garden and built up beds. Some cold hardy veggies were planted and the fencing was repaired. Starts were planted and some were planted in the garden as the weather improved. For being a new program, I would say this was a great success!


Spring progressed with our Workbee. We focused on repairs decided on by the Facilities Committee. We started mowing and working on planting trees. We continued to work on the garden and planted more

cold hardy veggies.

We had a new event called the Earthen Build Week where the strawbale house had a lot of love and attention given to it. We had collaboration with the Toledo Permaculture network and new connections with other natural building groups. The walls are now covered and there is a floor!

Mushroom Camp was full with registration and participants all took home baskets full of mushrooms! Danielle led the weekend and we welcomed new participants who had heard of the event by word of mouth. Meals were mushroom focused and everyone enjoyed the perfect foraging weather.

Upcoming/Current Events

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SPRING SPANISH CAMP WEEKEND: MAY 30 - JUN. 1

BJAM WORKBEE WEEKEND: MAY 30 - JUN. 1

BJAM WORKBEE WEEKEND: JUN. 6 - JUN. 8

LGBTQ AND ALLIES FAMILY CAMP: JUN. 6 - JUN. 8

BUTTERMILK JAMBOREE: JUN. 13 - JUN. 15

SUMMER CAMP SESSION 1A: JUN. 29TH - JUL. 5TH

SUMMER CAMP SESSION 1: JUN. 29TH- JULY 12TH

SUMMER CAMP SESSION 2A: JUL. 13TH - JUL. 19TH

SUMMER CAMP SESSION 2: JUL. 13TH - JUL. 26TH

SUMMER CAMP SESSION 3A: JUL. 27TH - AUG. 2ND

SUMMER CAMP SESSION 3: JUL. 27TH - AUG. 9TH

FORAGING FESTIVAL: AUG. 29 - SEP. 1