

glenhagen farm retreat news

Edition 2 | June 2019



Concert and Open House at glenhagen farm retreat Featuring Phil & Pam Kaufmann, Phyllis Horst Saturday, June 22, 2019

Everyone is invited to attend an open house at glenhagen farm retreat on Saturday, June 22 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. We are located at 25821 2300 North Ave., Princeton. This is not in the town of Princeton, but rather you can reach it by driving northeast from Princeton on Route 34, turning left on 2650 East which is marked by a sign for Van Orin, turning left at the first street, which is 2300 North Ave., and then turning right into the first driveway.

Phil and Pam Kaufmann and Phyllis Horst (Phil's twin sister) will provide a free concert starting at 2 p.m. Phil, Pam and Phyllis sing beautifully together. They present a wide range of folk and religious music, filled with great stories and humor. Phil has performed throughout the United States presenting the Cotton Patch Gospel. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear great music at the pavilion of

glenhagen farm retreat. The concert will take place rain or shine.

Please invite your family and friends to come out and enjoy the beautiful grounds and facilities. June is a beautiful month to walk the trails, observe the plants and flowers in full bloom, and bird watch. We'll be providing refreshments, and are very excited for you to see our new facilities.

In addition to the pavilion we opened last year, there's a new volleyball court. A large raised bed garden was added. A fire pit was built for campfire singing and roasting s'mores. Stone paths have been added by the tents. Picnic tables and park benches are placed throughout the walking trails.

It would be helpful if you plan to attend if you could send us an email at glenhagen@aol.com letting us know.



Nancy Hagen by the new fire pit



Phillip Erickson of Twin Oaks Landscaping and his uncle Curt building the raised bed garden

Glenhagen Farm Retreat Welcomes 2019 Campers

Project Exploration is returning with two groups in 2019. Project Exploration provides after school STEM education to students in the Chicago Public School system. We are very excited that they will bring a boys group as well as a girls group this season.

Kingsley School Girl Scout Troop, which was the first group to camp at glenhagen farm retreat, will be returning. They are looking forward to earning badges, singing by the campfire, and exploring the eco-systems.

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School will bring a group of students on a retreat to study the wonders of God's creation. They will focus on principles of environmental stewardship as expressed in the encyclical of Pope Francis entitled Laudato Si. Sister Glenna Czachor of the Wheaton Franciscans will help lead the retreat. Faculty members Katie and Rex Ovalle are organizing the retreat on behalf of Cristo Rey.

Refugee Education & Adventure Challenge will bring a group of students for a camping adventure. Shana Wills, Executive Director, founded REACH when she discerned a need for students who had come to the United States as refugees to engage in team building and outdoor adventure as a means to bolster self-confidence.

West Town Bikes will bring a group of students for a biking and camping adventure. West Town Bikes provides students with the opportunity to work in a bike repair shop, thereby learning job skills and bike repair skills. By contributing their time to the bike building activities, students have the opportunity to earn a bike. West Town Bikes also promotes health by leading bike rides with its participants.

Harmony Community Church of Chicago will be bringing a youth group for a camping experience. Harmony operates an after school program which is committed to supporting the education, safety and nutrition of neighborhood children.



New volleyball courts

The League of United Latin American Citizens is bringing a youth group from the Pilsen community to glenhagen. LULAC members are the driving force behind significant advancements and improvements to the quality of life for Hispanics across the country.

Glenhagen farm retreat is very excited to welcome both returning groups and new groups. We are deeply grateful to all those donors who have helped to make it possible to welcome so many wonderful groups to our camp this summer.

September 22 Fundraising Concert

Save the date for an amazing fundraising concert at the St. Cletus Parish Center, 600 W. 55th St., LaGrange on Sunday, September 22, at 4 p.m. This will be a joint benefit for Glenhagen Farm Retreat and the Ed Ward Fine Arts Series, which provides a series of concerts featuring a wide array of fantastic musical artists. The concert will

feature four incredible singers, Matt and Lisa Bowker, Angel Underhill and Daniel Riley, all of whom are part of the LakeSide Singers, Chicago's top professional choir. The band includes sax players Jerry DiMuzio and Andy Tecson, Bobby Schiff, piano, David Onderdonk, guitar, Matt Plaskota, drums, and James Ross, bass. The

music will include a wide array of popular and jazz tunes. Call Andy Tecson at **630-890-3384** or email him at **aptecon@icloud.com** for information on how to obtain tickets for this wonderful event.

Jen VanWinkle *By Elaine Johnson*

When Jen VanWinkle looked forward to camping out with her daughter's Girl Scout troop at Glenhagen Farm Retreat last year, she anticipated the quiet country setting, the rolling prairie vistas and the abundant natural beauty. What she didn't expect to find was a pristine new kitchen equipped with a 42" refrigerator and 48" range.

The facility is part of Glenhagen's pavilion, built last year to provide the camp's visitors with shelter, comfort and convenience. Just steps from the platform tents where campers slumber under the stars, the pavilion also is outfitted with restroom facilities and showers—which were welcome during the Girls Scout's August 2018 stay. The pavilion's overhead fans also offered a break from the heat.

"The pavilion is wonderful," Jen said. "For girls who have exclusively done Girl Scout camping in cabins, it's the perfect transition to tent camping. Many scouts aren't from outdoorsy families, so this was great."

The scouts did some campfire cooking on the way to fulfilling requirements for their Camper badge, but also helped in the kitchen, where burritos and eggs in a bag were on the menu. VanWinkle considers the well-equipped pavilion as "one of the extra attractions of the camping experience."

However, as nice as the facilities are, they ran a distant second to the clouds of butterflies and night skies burgeoning with more stars than the troop had ever seen. The girls were lucky enough to visit Glenhagen Farm Retreat during the Perseid meteor shower and "saw so many shooting stars," Jen said.

The scouts' favorite activity was a night hike without lights, where the experience was "all about our senses," she said. They returned to the route in daylight so the girls could see where they'd been.

Jen's daughter Meg also brought lots of great memories home with her from

Glenhagen Farm Retreat. "I really liked the outdoors, from the meadows to the creek. There were so many different types of butterflies that I hadn't seen before. And frogs about three inches long in little puddles. And then there was a mink during the river walk — we startled it, so it swam off. Also, a tiny turtle in the water and lots of plants growing in the water. That was interesting to me."

The trip was the first camping experience for the rising fifth-graders, and Meg looks forward to seeing the animals again and hanging out with her friends around the campfire when the troop returns to Glenhagen Farm Retreat this season. In fact, their reservation has been on the books for months, Jen said. "We are going back in June!"

Will Kupisch *By Elaine Johnson*

Will Kupisch has spent the better part of his adult life leading and mentoring young people—first as a history teacher, then as a school counselor and head cross country coach at Downers Grove North High School. Will coached the Trojans for 28 years before retiring in 2011. Now he's looking forward to bringing his combination of wisdom and motivation to Glenhagen Farm Retreat as the camp's new director.

The nature-oriented Will loves to garden, owns chickens and three antique tractors, and has even installed a barn cupola in his yard. "I'm a wannabe farmer," he said. So, when presented with the opportunity to join Glenhagen Farm Retreat, he couldn't say no.

Will expects to serve as an ambassador for the camp, "sharing the good news of what they're doing." While he enjoys retirement and "being more in charge of my bell," he also believes in "working and affecting lives — you always win when you do that."

As a coach and guidance counselor, Will appreciated the opportunity to motivate young people while also helping them gain perspective on their experiences, good and bad. And in doing so, he became a revered figure at DGN. Will saw coaching cross country as "a vehicle to teach young men about becoming men." It was through those decades that he honed his ability to motivate and lead — gifts he hopes to bring to Glenhagen Farm Retreat.

He looks forward to encouraging campers to "open their minds," to the bounty of nature and the outdoor experience. He will see that safety is observed and rules are followed, meet with leaders to design activities and "welcome campers with open arms."

The long-time motivational speaker also looks forward to sharing his down-to-earth message of hope and perseverance, if the opportunity presents itself. "Whatever I can do to help in any fashion, I want to be there."

More information available at:

 glenhagenfarm.org

 [glenhagen farm retreat](https://www.facebook.com/glenhagenfarmretreat)

 glenhagenfarm@gmail.com