



## CARE.CONNECT.PROTECT.

### CAMP CAVELL CONSERVANCY: A YEAR OF GROWTH AND GRATITUDE



Camp Cavell Conservancy has had a wonderful year, filled with joy and tranquil moments throughout our 55-acre property and 1800-foot beachfront on Lake Huron. We're excited to share that camp is now open for **wedding rentals** in spring, summer, and fall. We are also, revamping our 2025 **Conservation Outdoor Education** programs with new ecological experiences and lakefront programming including snorkeling excursions, including shipwreck exploration.

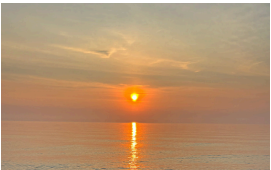
We are very happy to introduce some fantastic new leadership positions as we grow! Join us in welcoming **Jen Freeman** as our Reservation Specialist, "**Ziggy**" **Siegfried** as the Outdoor Education and Conservation Director, and **Laura Eastman** as our new **Cavell Camp Director**. Alongside our wonderful Business Manager, **Angie Butler**, our dedicated maintenance team—**Jen Robison**, **Scott Rich**, **Marv Mosher**, and **Betsy Hbreck**, hospitality manager helps us all remember to honor the rich traditions and care for our aging camp.

As we celebrate our progress, we want to take a moment to honor those we've lost, including **Jeanne Lilienthal**, **Arnie De'Amour-Braver**, and our beloved camp dog **Bella**. Their legacies will inspire us for generations to come, shaping countless adventures for future campers.

Additionally, we are delighted to welcome new board members **Olu Jabari**, **Colette Finney**, and **Kristen Kaatz**. Their enthusiasm and expertise will be instrumental as we evolve and grow our Board of Directors. We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Camp Director, **Jacquie Meyer**, who is embarking on new adventures—you and your contributions will always be cherished!

Thank you for being such incredible supporters! Your partnership makes it possible for us to create unforgettable experiences. We eagerly look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Wishing each of you  
a happy holiday season filled  
with love & laughter!  
Peace, Teresa Jex, Executive  
Director





## 2025 CAMP CAVELL SAVE THE DATES

**Winter Party:**  
February 22nd

**Volunteer Opening Weekends:**  
April 4th-6th & 11th-13th

**Spring Gala:**  
April 12th

**St. Clair Earth Fair:**  
April 25th-26th

**Spring Women's Getaway:**  
May 2nd-4th

**Friends & Family Memorial Day Retreat:**  
May 23rd-26th

**Community Day & Alumni Picnic:**  
May 24th

**Me & My Mom Weekend:**  
May 30- June 1st

**Kids Overnight Camp:**  
July 6th - August 8th

**Kid's Day Camp:**  
June 23rd - August 22nd

**Friends & Family Labor Day Retreat:**  
August 29-September 1st

**Fall Women's Getaway:**  
Sept 18th- 21st

**Fiber & Folk Arts Festival:**  
October 22-25th

**Friends & Family Halloween Weekend:**  
October 17-19th

**Volunteer Closing Weekend**  
November 7th-9th



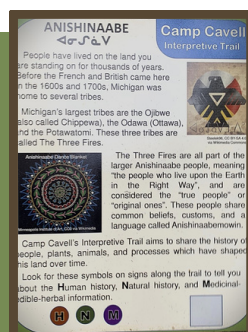
### Fascinating Facts



**New discount Pricing for Returning Campers, Referrals and Members of the Conservancy!**

Did you know that **Camp Cavell Conservancy (CCC)** boasts 55 acres of pristine woodlands and a breathtaking 1800 feet of Lake Huron shoreline? This stunning area once was home to many Native American tribes who held a deep reverence for the land and all of its natural elements.

To honor their environmental stewardship, camp staff built an exciting, new interpretive nature trail during the summer for campers to enjoy. Winding through the woods on the South side of camp, the informative guideposts illuminate the rich history of the camp and surrounding area. Continuing the process inside the nature yurt, visitors can connect that data with more in-depth learning about the animals, plants, and trees enriching the land. In keeping with this theme, we will soon be revealing fun, new programming that involves greater use of the waterfront and forest areas.



### How to help our mission...

- \*Join a Camp Committee
- \*Donate Needed Items
- \*Like us on Facebook

- \*Volunteer at Camp
- \*Participate in Work Days
- \*Share a Heartfelt Story

- \*Refer Summer Staff
- \*Attend Programs
- \*Become a Member

Use #Care.Connect.Protect. on Social Media

## ~The Whelan Family Tree: A Living Legacy~

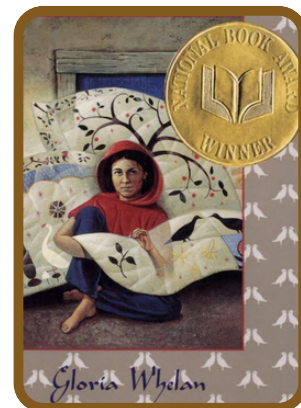
In a moment of profound reverence, Cavell staff was privileged to welcome its oldest alumna, Gloria Whelan, in September of this year. At the venerable age of one hundred, Whelan offered a wealth of heartfelt recollections from her time at camp in 1933-1934. Her words painted vivid pictures of swimming, singing, horseback riding, and the profound connection she forged with the natural world and fellow campers.

Accompanied by her daughter, Jenny Nolana, also a former camper from the 1960s, Whelan regaled her audience with tales of early morning dips in the lake, campfire sing-alongs, and learning to ride horses. Yet, the most meaningful theme of her narrative was the enduring love for people and nature which she nurtured at Camp Cavell.

A renowned author and National Book Award winner, Whelan's children's and young adult fiction often draws inspiration from personal experiences. Her works, including historical fiction set on Mackinac Island and in communist Russia, as well as short stories published in various literary journals, are a testament to her creative spirit.

Following her time at Camp Cavell, Whelan acquired a property up north and transformed it into a conservancy. When she learned that Camp Cavell was also shifting its focus towards nature conservation, she was intrigued by this and invited her daughter along to visit.

The reunion was a sacred moment for both Whelan and the Cavell community. As she shared the original Camp Cavell song, it was evident that the camp's spirit and traditions have remained steadfast through the decades. Her visit served as a poignant reminder of the enduring impact our camp can have on its campers, even many years later.



**An Extra Special Thanks To:**

**All the donors, volunteers, & attendees at the fall fundraiser!  
And all the artists, vendors & visitors to this year's  
Thumb Fiber & Folk Arts Festival!**

## THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bea Castillo**, *Chairperson*

**Lorrie MacGilvray**, *Vice Chairperson*

**Randy Martinek**, *Secretary*

**Marilyn Marshall**, *Treasurer*

**Olu Jabari**, *Trustee*

**Kristen Kaatz**, *Trustee*

**Colette Finney**, *Trustee*

**Teresa Jex**, *Executive Director*



# 2024 Scholarship “CAMPERSHIP” REPORT

Cavell Summer Camps had a fantastic summer! We understand that many of our campers come from challenging backgrounds and that rising camp costs can be a significant burden. That's why we're committed to providing scholarship/camperships to all kids who need support. Last summer, we were proud to **offer funding to 47 deserving campers.**

Due to these rising costs, however, we noticed a slight decrease in enrollment. To ensure the best possible experience for **ALL** campers, we're offering some fantastic deals and opportunities that will be available when **registration opens in January:**

- **Returning Camper Discounts:** Loyal campers get rewarded! Enjoy special savings on your next summer camp adventure.
- **Refer-a-Friend Bonus:** Spread the word and earn extra discounts. For every family you refer, you'll receive a **\$20 credit** towards your camp fees.
- **Conservancy Membership Perks:** Become a member of our new Conservancy program and unlock exclusive discounts on summer camp and other exciting offerings.

**Don't miss out on this opportunity to provide your child with a memorable summer experience. Reserve space today by filling out an interest form on our website!**

Camper Scholarships:  
  
47

Funds Awarded to Campers:  
  
\$39,900

## The Past Season Brought Campers From:

DETROIT, KIMBALL, LEXINGTON, CROSWELL, PORT HURON, MARYSVILLE, CARSONVILLE, CLINTON, OAK PARK, BURTCHVILLE, APPLGATE, LIVONIA, FERNDALE, JEDDO, MIDLAND, DEARBORN HEIGHTS, ANN ARBOR, WALES, ST. CLAIR, MARLETTE, SANDUSKY, PORT SANILAC, ROSEVILLE, PONTIAC, PECK, ROCHESTER HILLS, OLIVET, ROCHESTER, EASTPOINTE, MT CLEMENS, HARPER WOODS, WATERFORD, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, DECKERVILLE, WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, AUBURN HILLS, CHESTERFIELD, NEW HAVEN, and GREENWOOD.



Many thanks to our 2024 sponsors...

Uncommon.  
PRODUCTIONS

Woman's Life  
connection. community. cause.

Lexington Business  
LBA

the Wine  
Jammie  
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Community  
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**A Special Thank You To: Vivian Stafford and our friends through United Charities for kickstarting 2025 scholarships!**





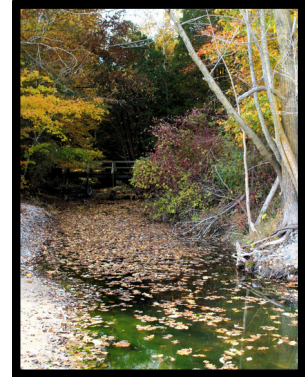
## Bridging the past & the present

In a series of unexpected circumstances, I was recently led to the charming location of Camp Cavell. Sorting through old photos, I came across an unfamiliar image. Turning the snapshot over, I saw my mother's handwriting and was intrigued by the details scribbled on the back; "Camp Cavell, Lake Huron, M.E.E.A., 5-10-85, weekend."

Having my own deep love for the Port Huron area, I was surprised I hadn't heard of this place before. Curious, I did a deep dive into researching this particular event and discovered the acronym was short for "Michigan Environmental Education Awards." Even more surprised she would endure the back roads for close to three hours (she never set wheels on a highway) all the way to Lexington, I drove to East Lansing to view the historical collections at Michigan State University, where the original materials are stored.

A long-time environmental advocate and Girl Scout leader, it wouldn't be so unusual for her to gravitate towards an opportunity to expand her outdoor knowledge. This informative conference covered everything from wilderness skills, kayaking safety, and understanding birds of prey to nature art, outdoor special education, and storytelling around the campfire. But why this specific one? Passing away when I was still a young adult, I never quite got to know my mother as much as I would have liked. But finding this picture at the exact same age she was when she stepped foot on the grounds of Camp Cavell was serendipitous.

At this time, there was many significant changes in my life. I was feeling a bit untethered missing my mom and void of significant purpose. Yet, this trail of clues afforded me a reason to make a deeper connection with her via Camp Cavell, as I walked the trails and beach in search of the bridge in her photo. Gratefully, the exploration gave me the opportunity to discover just how special this lakeside camp is. And while the terrain has certainly changed a bit, I was able to capture an image in the same location she stood, close to forty years ago. ~ Colette ~



Celebrating fiber, folk art, and community, this year's Thumb Fiber & Folk Arts Festival at Camp Cavell proved to be a popular occasion to usher in the fall season. Held in October, the event had activities for all ages and showcased the work of talented artisans like Lazy Dog Fiber Arts, Sunshine Acres Homestead Farm, and Wilder Creek.

The annual weekend retreat also offered creative exploration through a variety of demonstrations and workshops for all skill levels. From spinning and knitting to felting, broom making, and beyond, there was an interesting craft for all. To fully immerse in the camp experience, amenities such as lodging and breakfast were also offered.

"I enjoyed the Fiber Festival at Camp Cavell and came away with three new hobbies," said attendee Mary Schiros.

In addition to learning different skills, those on-site could shop for new fiber supplies, tools, and unique creations from many vendors. Hosted by Woman's Life, visitors were also invited to craft for a cause by purchasing gently used craft supplies to raise money for the Conservancy's campership program.

Enhancing the creativity, local musicians played lively music throughout the festival and food trucks offered delicious edible options for purchase.

Lastly, the picturesque setting with a beautiful backdrop of peak color offered a peaceful atmosphere for everyone to connect in a more meaningful way. Experiencing the festival for their third year, fiber instructors Nancy Binkowski and Marlene Szarka enjoyed bonding over sister time, among many other things. "It was great meeting new people and immediately feeling like friends," said Szarka. "We look forward to next year as soon as we leave."

**Fiber Festival**



Nancy, Colette,  
& Marlene

More information is coming soon on a cool new way to give to Camp Cavell Conservancy!

**Memory Bricks coming in Spring 2025**



**CALL FOR ALUMNI!**  
We would love to hear your camp story! Stop by, call, or message us to share.

Camp Cavell Conservancy  
3335 Lakeshore Rd  
Lexington, MI 48450



**Coming Soon!**  
**\*New ways to give**  
**\*Updated website**  
**\*Alumni stories**  
**\*And SO much more!**

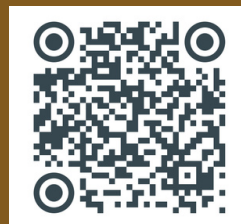
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Sponsorships



Camp Wish List



**you can also visit [campcavell.org/donate](https://campcavell.org/donate) or send a check**