

NOVEMBER 2024

MOUNT EAGLE

Official Newsletter of Mount Eagle Retreat Center

This issue:

Mount Eagle Highlights

PAGE 02

Hank Godwin's Musings

PAGE 05

Reflections from Ally Ross

PAGE 06

Letter from the Director

PAGE 07

Upcoming Events

PAGE 08

Ways to help

PAGE 09

☀️ 2024 has been
a year of
opportunities. ☀️



Mount Eagle Group Highlights



MOUNT EAGLE WAS HONORED TO HOST THE CLERGY WOMEN OF THE ARUMC FOR A RETREAT IN EARLY FALL. WE LOVE PROVIDING A PLACE FOR HOLY LISTENING FOR THOSE IN MINISTRY.



MOUNT EAGLE HOSTED AN OMP MISSION WEEK!



MOUNT EAGLE COULD SEE COMET C3 IN OCTOBER!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM TO SEE THE LATEST UPDATES AT MOUNT EAGLE! CLICK ON THE ICON TO GO TO OUR PAGE.



Mount Eagle Fall Highlights

THROUGH THE NOMADS SERVICE HERE AT MOUNT EAGLE, THEY HAVE ALLOWED US TO MAKE SURE THAT THE GRANTS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO EXPAND AND CREATE PROGRAMS FOR ALL WHO COME THROUGH OUR DOORS.



**THANK YOU
NOMADS!**

THEY BUILT A SHED FOR THE NEW INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH COMPOSTING MACHINE! FINISHED PRODUCT BELOW!!!



Mount Eagle Grounds' Highlights



OUR CAMPGROUND GOT SOME GREAT UPDATES! WE NOW HAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE TENT CAMPGROUND!



MOUNT EAGLE'S DISC GOLF COURSE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY NAMED!!! THE LOVELADY-BENFER DISC GOLF COURSE SIGN IS UP AND LOOKS GREAT!

Musings from Hank Godwin: Mount Eagle's COB



MY BABIES DEDICATED TO CLINT JOHNSON

About two years ago, I rolled up to the Mount Eagle campus and saw fellow board member Clint Johnson waist deep in the Lily Pond. This intrigued me. He was doing a health assessment of the wildlife and habitat of our two ponds. We needed this to provide a strategy for future use along with our land. He and Katelyn had already climbed into the Campground Pond and formulated a strategy, "Put some largemouth bass in there and chunk the tiny fish on the bank."

Clint's challenge seemed easy. Catch a few largemouth and throw them in the pond. Easy Peasy. My plan was to catch them on Mount Eagle property in the Middle Fork of the Little Red River and haul them very quickly to the pond. I bought a crappie basket and Styrofoam ice chest that I carried in the back of my truck at all times. This was going to be my greatest contribution to Mount Eagle. Generations of young visitors and guests were going to catch 7 pound bass out of that pond because of Hank Godwin. After nine months of carrying the crappie basket and ice chest around in the backseat and many unsuccessful trips to the river, I knew I needed a new plan.

I consider it a God Thing. All of the sudden, "Arkansas Pondstockers" advertisements started popping up in my email spam. I high tailed it to Yellville and picked up 50 largemouth fry. I immediately shuttled them the 62 miles from the Feed Store to Mount Eagle, praying the whole way for their survival. After a short acclimation, they swam into the abyss. It was going to be a hard life for these fry and only their numbers would give them a chance. I called them my babies. Unfortunately, there was not much I could do to assure their future contribution to my legacy.

On every trip to Mount Eagle for the next year, I would tie a bait on my flyrod and try to check one my babies. The conditions were right one day, and I gently hooked one. It was a 14" largemouth and as Clint said, the panfish got larger as a side benefit of the food chain thinning. I was amazed at the growth rate of both. As any good mother would, I worry about my babies. Will the drought dry up the pond? Will an eagle or raccoon snatch one? Will our guests, after catching one of my babies, put her back in the pond for others to enjoy?

I'll be checking on my babies for many years to come.
Practice "Catch and Release" please.



Reflection from Mount Eagle's First Summer Intern

ALLY ROSS



The lessons and experiences I gained from my time at Mount Eagle are ones that will assist me far beyond the scope of a summer internship. I feel incredibly blessed to have been granted an opportunity that aided in both my professional and spiritual growth to such a great extent.

Over the course of my internship I spent ten weeks assisting with the day-to-day operations, production of marketing material, and the planning and execution of promotional efforts for Mount Eagle, all while living in a tiny house at the retreat center. I learned so much about the inner workings of small non-profits and got the opportunity to attend financial planning meetings, share about Mount Eagle at Annual Conference, and receive amazing insight and career guidance from Katelyn. The experience also helped build my communication and public speaking skills, as one of my most important duties was to speak to both church employees and congregations about what Mount Eagle is, and why it is such a great place for groups to stay.

When I told my family and friends that I was living in a tiny house out in the middle of nowhere all summer, I often received the same question: “Are you not bored out of your mind?” And while there were many times when there was nothing I had to do, there were very few instances in which I felt there was nothing I could do. I’d hike out to sunrise point, I’d hammock, I’d go for a run along the river, I’d sit on the swings behind Kaetzell and read my bible.

Between pitching to churches and reassuring loved ones, I spent a lot of time this summer talking about what Mount Eagle has. However, in my personal experience what sets this place apart is what it doesn't. The stresses of everyday life: the traffic, the deadlines, the arguments. You won't find that there. In the quietness, in the stillness, in the simplicity, there is an unavoidable absence. An absence that, when embraced, will be filled with the overcoming, endlessly loving, presence of God.

If you spend any time at all in religious settings, it will not be long until you are given the sometimes seemingly daunting task of “making space for God.” I think the truest, most inherent value of Mount Eagle is that it is a place in which that space has already been made.



Letter from the Director

Katelyn Hiatt

2024 REVIEW

2024 has been a year of opportunities. We have loved providing opportunities for guests to connect with God and His creation. Provide youth with opportunities to serve. Provide donors with a way to sustain this wonderful ministry. Opportunities to expand and offer wonderful programs and opportunities for fellowship and grace. Endless opportunities to learn and sit in the space where God has invited you to meet Him.

This year we are on pace to host our highest number of guests. 2024 has been a year of beautiful connections. New and returning guests are being transformed by the peace that God provides when sitting along the bluffs. Guests attending our Writing Retreat have connected spiritually to their stories. Youth's lives have been changed through service and seeing God's beauty in worship. We have had many crafting groups be able to find the peace to start or complete many of their projects. We have hosted church groups as they enjoyed their time of fellowship together.

God's work in creation has been on display throughout the year. We had a full house of guests coming from all over to experience the solar eclipse that was a visual spectacle. There have been multiple evenings throughout the year when the northern lights (aurora borealis) have been visible. Then, most recently, we were able to see comet C3 shooting through the night sky. Although those are exciting sights, we are always in awe of God's presence that is right in front of us each day.

We cannot take for granted this piece/peace of God's creation that calls people to him. This takes time and resources to ensure the present and future of this ministry. We ask you to please donate and continue to change the lives of all who meet God in this space.

“I loved this week so much. I’m usually a pretty quiet kid but I really stepped out of my comfort zone here, I felt free. I will truly never forget this!”

-youth from a church retreat



Upcoming Events at Mount Eagle

Visit our [Events Page](#) to register for events!



Grief Retreat
MOUNT EAGLE RETREAT CENTER
December 6-8, 2024

This retreat will support and equip those in helping professions as they interact with individuals impacted by grief. It will be led by Greg Adams, director of the Center for Good Mourning, at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

\$140 Includes Lodging and 4 Meals

For more info, visit mouteagle.org/events.



Grief Retreat
MOUNT EAGLE RETREAT CENTER
January 10-12, 2025

This retreat is the same as our December Grief Retreat. It will support and equip those in helping professions as they interact with individuals impacted by grief. It will be led by Greg Adams, director of the Center for Good Mourning, at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

\$140 Includes Lodging and 4 Meals

For more info, email info@mouteagle.org



You can also email info@mouteagle.org for more information about any event at Mount Eagle!



Giving Tuesday at Mount Eagle

GIVING TUESDAY
DECEMBER 3RD, 2024

HELP US REACH OUR GIVING TUESDAY GOAL OF \$5,000

We have also highlighted some items on the next page for Giving Tuesday (in addition to our Amazon Wishlist)! Each item has a link to the corresponding website.



Please consider Mount Eagle for any 2024 End of Year gifts:
<https://mouteagle.campbraingiving.com>



Giving Tuesday Wish List



COMPOSTING BUCKET & LID

With our new composting machine, we are increasing our commitment to sustainability. These composting buckets with lids will help us keep our commitment.



BEDDING & LINENS

Sheets and towels (both in the color white) stay on our list continuously because of how regularly they are used and how often we need to replace them. Gifting a new set of Mount Eagle's bedding or towels is always a helpful gift.



INDUSTRIAL WASHER & DRYER

If anyone has ever volunteered in our laundry room, they know the endless cycle of laundry at Mount Eagle. The industrial washer/dryer will decrease time spent on laundry by maximizing the loads we can do. You can donate towards the purchase of these appliances here.

Any purchased items can be mailed to:
Mount Eagle Retreat Center
935 Beal Rd, Clinton, AR 72031