

Camp encourages creative learning

BY GINA GOODMAN
Record-Eagle staff writer

Under a shade tree on a sunny summer morning at the Little Artshram Farm, a group of children gather among brightly painted masks and a variety of percussion instruments.

"We're here for a week," said Leif Vanderwerff, 10. "My favorite part is that we're all having fun."

The 80-acre farm in Maple City is the center for creative learning through the Art and Outdoor Theater Camp, a five-day program run by the farm's owner, Penny Krebiehl.

"It's just trying to learn more about life by having yourself completely immersed in it," Krebiehl said.

The camp invites children

7 and older to participate by planting in the garden, painting, storytelling, drumming, hiking and generally learning about the world around them.

"I like the garden," said Audrey Thompson, 7, "and painting and art stuff. I'm a good painter."

From 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., the campers work on their end-of-the-week puppet and mask performances, taking breaks to eat lunch, play instruments and visit the "Julia Tree," a Hemlock tree they named after a California woman who lived in a tree for two years.

"We like the fact that she likes to save trees," Krebiehl said. "So we named our tree after her."

An old pole barn serves as the colorful art room, where recycled materials are used for the various projects. It's a place where the children don't need to be afraid of spilling paint or getting papier-mache on the floor, Krebiehl said.

"It's not just that you're offering art programming, but it's that your creating a space that is open to be able to step into something, and not worry about the mess," she said. "Also so that when kids step through the door, they know that what they're doing is something different."

The Little Artshram Farm also hosts other week-long day camps, including a program called the OUTLOUD! Girls Camp.

The end of the summer brings a Harvest Festival, which draws local farmer and community members together to enjoy food, a puppet show performance, a barn dance and bonfires.

The farm also provides an artist apprentice program for teenagers.

Those who have been



Record-Eagle/Lara Neel

Eleanor Hill, 7, Emma Velis, 8, and Audrey Thompson, 7, practice their lines for a play about squash bugs.

through the apprentice program help out with the younger kids.

"I started last year, I came to her OUTLOUD! girls camp," said 14-year-old Emma Cook, who became an apprentice along with her sister, Sarah.

"I like what Penny teaches the kids," she said, "how she uses art to promote learning."

Krebiehl decided to purchase the farm and use it as an art space after living and teaching art in Lansing. She wanted a larger area and more time for children to create.

"Initial inspiration for me to do programs like this had everything to do with the fact that there was just not enough time being made for creative process in their regular public school experience," Krebiehl said. "I started really reflecting on the Zen aspect of art being life and life being art."

As the campers scampered around painting their masks and planning their skits, no one seemed to miss watching television, playing video games or surfing the Internet.

"I'm really interested in pulling kids away from the television and computers," Krebiehl said. "There's so much feeling that happens when we are engaged in creating. From the first part of the puppet show and all the work it takes, all the way to the end of it, and how that cycle repeats itself over and over.

"This is the way kids learn. Everything is an amazing experience, and there is just wonder constantly. The result has been really wonderful."

The Art and Outdoor Theater camp is offered in three different week-long sessions, and is \$85 for each child. For more information, call 228-3493.

WIN LAST CHANCE

Lakefront Property

\$5 ticket buys a chance to win a wooded lake lot on one of the largest and most beautiful upper peninsula recreational lakes.

Proceeds to benefit the TAHQUAMENON AREA CIVIC CENTER BUILDING PROJECT

10 other cash prizes will be awarded: 2-\$500, 2-\$400, 2-\$300 & 4-\$100
If 20,000 tickets are not sold, the first prize will revert to a \$20,000 cash prize with all other cash prizes to be awarded.

Tickets ONLY \$5.00 Each

Great year round recreation area. Located three miles west of Curtis, MI on County Road H-42 on Big Manistique Lake.

Year round access with power available.

Lot is 50' lakefront by approximately 600' deep.

Tickets by mail order must be postmarked by October 1, 2004, or they will not be included in the drawing. Need not be present to win. Allow 3 to 4 weeks for processing your ticket order.

Drawing October 16, 2004

Raffle License #R73659

Your personal information will not be sold or given to any other organization.

Please feel free to copy and distribute this order form.

Check out our website for more information

www.superiorsights.com/tacc

RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

(you must be 18 years or older)

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

No. of Tickets _____ X \$5 Each= _____

TCRE

Mail check or money order payable to:

Tahquamenon Area Civic Center Committee (TACCC)

PO Box 220, Newberry, MI 49868

Sorry, no credit cards accepted. Please do not send cash by mail.

Office Use Only

Check No. _____ Ticket No.(s) _____

8/27.763556.ag