

Onaway Magic

While sitting in the Boys' and Girls' Brigade chapel at Onaway Island last summer during a girls camp, I was overcome with emotion. The thought occurred to me, that I first set foot in this chapel 35 years ago, and I started to reflect back on all the lessons learned, friends made, and the fun we have had here.

Because I was sitting on the far right side of chapel, I could see most of the camp. As I looked around at the faces, I saw Marge Easton. She was a leader when I was a camper. Then I saw Sue Wolfe. Sue and I went to high school together and we were cabin mates back in 1973. So Marge and many others women leaders; KK, Nursie, Ma Fieldler, Gerry Cooper, Sue Schaffer, etc... had mentored Sue, me, and so many of our peers; Roz Wittmann, Pam Buss, Teri Beyer, Jane Wells, etc...

My focus then turned to the person sitting next to me, Marnie Spielbauer, camp manager and Boys' & Girl's Brigade staff member. Marnie had attended Girls' 3 as a camper. Here was one of many gals that I had helped mentor as a G3 leader, now running things. And as I panned the faces again, I could see Marnie's peers; Tosha Martzal, Amy Clark, and so many others.

Wow! Here in Onaway Island chapel, on this day, were 3 generations of mentors; the people that have taught me about the magic of mentoring and have passed the magic onto us. Those that have been on the journey with me and have passed the magic on to those that are just beginning their mentoring. And let's not forget the next generation of mentors-to-be that are currently attending the camp and learning about the love and spirit of the gift that we so endearingly refer to as the "Onaway Magic".

It is extraordinarily comforting to my soul to know that this gift of all that "Onaway Magic" is about, has been so well taken care of over the years, and continues to be so honored and cherished.

A proud Girls' Brigader,

Linda M. Ahles