



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

Volume 24, Issue 2

Wilson, Bregin, Snow and Fun

by: Susan Derby

Well over 100 brave souls battled blizzard conditions to help celebrate the OSA's 24th year by gathering at the European Chalet Banquet Hall for the Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance on March 2nd.

Bill Tenner was there to save the day by spinning the tunes after two DJs had fallen through. Meanwhile people took some time to catch up, buy raffle tickets and cast their votes for new Board Members. We kept the same raffle format as last year, selling only a limited number of tickets, spelling better odds for better prizes. With great raffle prizes, table gifts and door prizes, everyone went home with something, even if it was just a tummy full of great food. See page 4 for a list of raffle winners.

After dinner, Life Member plaques were passed out to Pat and Wally Kleinfeldt and John Nuccio. A moment of silence was held for those OSA members who had passed during the year, including Mary Kay Posen-Saini who was tragically killed earlier that day in a car accident in Michigan. There was one bit of very good news: Tony Krier reported that he has been given a clean bill of health from his doctor in regards to the cancer he had been fighting.

OSA President Ron Derby awarded the brand new Member of the Year Award to Mark "Badger" Bregin for his outstanding efforts and participation during the past year. Mark has attended and brought extra workers to fix-its, recruited his brothers to join the OSA (even through they were never on staff), held the picnic grove for last year's picnic and reserved a new grove for this year's event, and on and on. He also still showed up to the Dinner Dance despite being involved in a car accident on the way over! We also recognized Ron Wilson's lifelong dedication to Owasippe with the Honorary Life Member Award. Chauncey Nizioł took a less-than-serious walk through Ron's camp career and all his accomplishments before presenting the award to a standing ovation.

Elections Chairman and outgoing Board Member Vince Rychtanek announced the winners of the election. This year's ballot was full of good candidates, and remember we hold elections every year, so if you didn't win this time, you have ten months to start your campaign! Officers were elected but weren't announced at the meeting due to shortness of time. Art Paull stepped down from the Board after elections had begun, so the fourth top vote-getter, Hans Anderson,

was asked to serve out Art's term. The new Board and officers are listed on page 4.

In another bit of good (bad?) news, Scott Weber turned 50 that night and was a good sport about the misery-laden Owasippe birthday song. He even shared his birthday cake with everyone. Happy birthday old timer!

Many people kept the Posen family in their thoughts and prayers that night. Understandably, Dinner Dance coordinator Diane Posen wasn't able to be there see how all of her planning and hard work turned out. Judging by the countless positive comments, she did a great job. Thanks to everyone who did brave the cold and snow to join us!



Ron Wilson receives the Honorary Life Member Award from Chauncey Nizioł, while Tony Krier looks on.

President's Perspective by: Ron Derby - President

We've all heard the expression, "It's a dirty job but somebody has to do it." Who is that somebody? Sometimes it's the member who makes it to every fix-it and works hard. Sometimes it's the member who keeps up with his or her dues. Sometimes it's the member who takes the time to write an article for the newsletter. Sometimes it's the member who can't make it to events anymore but helps out by making a donation every so often. There are plenty of ways for each of us to do our part. There are plenty of somebodies out there who deserve thanks.

This time around, I'd like to thank the very special type of somebody that volunteers to serve on the OSA Board of Directors. These people give a lot for the cause. Thanks goes to the outgoing Board Members: Diane Posen, Vince Rychtanek, Pat Troy and Art Paull for their years of service to the OSA and it's purpose. Thanks goes to the returning Directors: Mike Campbell, Dan Kleinfeldt and Jim Rich for hanging in there and continuing to make it happen. Thanks goes to our brand new Board Members: Candy Merritt, Ron Kulak, George Korzen and Hans Anderson for getting involved in such a time consuming but very worthwhile cause. Thanks also goes to those who ran for the Board but weren't elected this time around: Bill Tenner, Cheryl Merritt and Pete Kulak for having the guts to throw their names in the hat.

It takes a tremendous amount of work to run our organization but the bottom line is that, while at times it may be a dirty job, we know that somebody has to do it. As you know, our purpose is not only to support Owasippe but to strengthen the bonds of friendship forged while working there. The OSA is both a family and a team. When we all do our part, everybody wins.

As always, thanks, keep up the great work and I hope to see you in the woods!



*Progress
is pulling
together!*

Spring is in the Air by: Susan Derby

The Spring Fix-it is only a month away, and the Board has been busy planning projects and menus so all you have to do is bring some tools and lend a hand. This time, we have a number of smaller projects all across camp.

There are just a few minor finishing touches for the Wolverine firebowl to be complete. Another layer of railroad ties is needed behind the stage area, and real checkdams on each row of benches will improve the appearance over the present ones that are pieced together with scrap wood.

The staff kybo at Blackhawk needs infiltrators installed to replace the drain field. That will mean some digging and assembly. The new Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base needs a trail system between events. We'll be laying small logs to mark the edges and filling the path with wood chips. There are two projects planned for Reneker. We have some painting to do, along with some luggage carts that need building. Because there are so many projects in various locations, we'll need to break into a few teams to get it all done. All the jobs will take some muscle power and are equally important to improving camp. If you have hammers, drills, gloves, shovels, paintbrushes, rollers or a wheelbarrow, bring them along.

We will also have a small team at the Blackhawk firebowl to survey the land and start with designs to refurbish it. Depending on how the survey goes, we should have a plan within a few months for how we'll tackle that 40K project.

Chauncey and the Kempas are teaming up again to wow us with great meals. The folks from the Michigan Nature Conservatory will be present for the weekend of the BioBlitz, a study of the flora and fauna on Owasippe land. It will be interesting to talk with them about what they have found as they wrap up their study on Saturday.

So come out for what should be a great weekend. Just some elbow grease on Saturday gets you a free cabin, three meals and a chance to get out to the magic sands of Owasippe for the whole weekend!

*Visit the OSA online at
www.owasippe.com*

*and be sure to
sign the guestbook
while you're there!*



Owasippe News

Think you've done it all at Owasippe?

Do you know a Troop or Venture Crew that is looking for a unique summer camp experience? Owasippe offers two programs that specifically target older Scouts and Venture Crews.

CHAB — The Crown High Adventure Base manages and outfits backpacking treks and canoe trips through the Manistee National Forest. Scouts and Crews receive training in specific skills necessary for extended backpacking treks including gear, routes, campsite requirements and Leave No Trace principles.

The Manistee Quest is a 5-day, 4-night excursion along the North Country Trail and Pere Marquette River. All treks are accompanied by a trained trail guide. The program incorporates 50-Miler and Leave No Trace requirements and partial backpacking merit badge requirements. Terrain varies from moderate to challenging across the 150-mile stretch of trail. It's a great primer for Philmont crews, two-week camp Troops and those who are looking for a new, more challenging summer experience.

Scouts and Venturers must be age 13 by January 1st of the year of the trek. First Class rank is recommended. Starting this year, single Scouts are accepted as well as small groups of Scouts without accompanying leaders.

Venture Camp — A special week at Camp Carlen has been set aside for Venture Crews. The first ever Venture Camp will be held during sixth period. The \$100/person program (Sunday to Wednesday) and \$200/person (Sunday to Saturday) will help individual Venturers toward filling requirements for all Venture awards. The program will be tailored to the requirements that are difficult to fulfill at home and at other Owasippe section camps.

To learn more about either program, call the CAC Director of Camping, Steve Adams, at (312) 421-8800 or via e-mail at Stadams@bsamail.com.

BioBlitz 2002

Calling all ecologists, natural resource professionals and highly qualified amateurs! The Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring a "Bioblitz" at Owasippe. Over the course of two 3-day periods this summer, teams of ecologists, natural resource professionals and highly qualified amateurs will conduct targeted rapid and detailed field inventories in areas likely to support high quality plant and animal populations, exemplary natural communities and their associated ecological processes.

We will focus on specific areas of Camp Owasippe that have been prioritized for fieldwork through map and aerial photograph landscape analysis.

Targets for inventories will include high quality, representative and restorable oak-pine barrens, dry sand prairies, coastal plain marshes and other areas likely to support biodiversity "hotspots" and wildlife habitat. Although we are most interested in locating populations of rare reptiles, plants and insects (particularly lepidopterans associated with prairie and barrens communities), we are very interested in documenting as many species as possible from all taxonomic groups. The long-range purpose of the Bioblitz is to provide much-needed baseline data on the natural features of Owasippe so that The Nature Conservancy can advise and assist the Camp in managing their lands to benefit biodiversity.

Where? Owasippe Scout Reservation covering 4,500 acres in north central Muskegon County, Michigan. It borders Big Blue Lake and the White River as well as the Manistee National Forest. **When?** May 16-18, 2002 (Thursday through Saturday of the same weekend as the OSA Spring Fix-it) and August 18-20, 2002 (Sunday through Tuesday). **Housing?** We anticipate having cabins available for participants and hope to be able to accommodate all volunteers. **Food?** All food will be provided during the Blitzes.

You provide your incredibly valuable time, expertise and knowledge. Of course we'd love for you to come for both 3-day events, but we would appreciate your assistance for even a single day. We are counting on you to help us collect field data, including species lists, site descriptions and natural resource data for our site conservation plans and long-term management and monitoring. We will provide field data forms and protocols, but we are also relying on your expertise to help us in this regard. If you have time-tested field forms, methodologies and field gear, we would love to hear from you.

RSVP to the Nature Conservancy by e-mailing John Legge at jlegge@tnc.org, or you may call John Legge or Lara Kramarz at (616) 776-0230. Whichever way you choose to RSVP, please let us know what days you can attend. We will contact you with additional information, as more details become available.

Any specimens collected during the Bioblitzes may remain with the collector, subject, of course, to any Michigan Department of Natural Resources permit requirements for state-listed species. Specimens that are federally protected, such as the endangered *Lycaeides melissa samuelis*, cannot be collected.

Prize Winners

Congratulations to the door prize and raffle winners from this year's Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance back on March 2nd!

DVD Player Cheryl Merritt
Cash \$250 Ed Gorz
Drill Set Tiny Norman
TV/VCR Combo Pat Monahan
Saw Kit John Adamowski
Split the Pot Jim Schlichting,
Pete Klaeser
Door prizes Bill Zeilinski, Jim Marshall,
Jim Rich, Father Scanlan,
Peggy O'Connell,
Jennifer (Kempa) Kawazinski,
John Nuccio, Chauncey Niziol

Election Winners

Three Board members' terms expired: Diane Posen, Vince Rychtanek and Pat Troy. Art Paull tendered his resignation and Hans Anderson will serve out the remainder of Art's term.

The 2002 Board of Directors:

Ron Derby President
Dan Kleinfeldt Vice President
Kevin Oster Treasurer
Mike Campbell Secretary
Jim Rich
Candy Merritt*
George Korzen*
Ron Kulak*
Hans Anderson*

* denotes new Board member

Thanks to all the candidates who ran and to Vince Rychtanek for chairing the election one last time. Thanks also go to the outgoing Board members for their years of service.

Owasippe's 91st Season

Staff Week June 22-29
Session 1 June 30 - July 6
Session 2 July 7-13
Session 3 July 14-20
Session 4 July 21-27
Session 5 * July 28 - August 3
Session 6 ** August 4-10

* Webelos II Camp held in Carlen: July 28- August 1

** Venture Camp - final details TBA

Be it Ever So Humble...

If there's one thing we've learned over the years, it's that there's always room for improvement. As we promised last year when we launched it, the



OSA's Web site is no exception. The OSA recently contracted xBx Channel Media (www.xbx.com) to make some enhancements to our widely popular online home. The new-look home page has a much more fresh feel that highlights upcoming events and news items. So clear your browser cache and check us out at www.owasippe.com. Oh yeah, don't forget to sign the guestbook while you're there!

Staff Eagles Honored

The OSA has adopted a program to honor Owasippe staff members who attain Scouting's highest rank. If the applicant has successfully completed all the requirements of Eagle Scout and has served on staff for at least one summer at Owasippe, he is eligible to receive a certificate and letter of congratulations from the president of the Owasippe Staff Association. To receive this award simply send your request along with the Scout's name, the date of the Court of Honor and the year/camp on staff at OSR to The OSA Eagle Award, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154. **Requests must be received at least one month prior to the Court of Honor, and don't forget to include a shipping address.** Applicants do not have to be members of the OSA, but we certainly hope they'll join when they're old enough.



Key OSR Staff for 2002

Reservation Director Bill VanBerschott
Head Ranger Al Geisler
Warehouse Manager Nancy Romcoe
Camp Blackhawk Director Carl Young
Camp Carlen Director Ed Kinnerk
Camp Reneker Director Candy Merritt
Camp Wolverine Director Mike Campbell
High Adventure Director Nick L'Heureux

What's News?

Extension welcomed

The Hart-Montague Bike Trail may need to change its name after an extension into Whitehall is completed. City residents have been asking for the extension for a while now, and it seems the state and city have reached an agreement about the course and construction of the trail extension. The project should be complete by the end of 2003.

The path will run from the intersection of Hanson and Thompson streets to the White Lake Community Library, running through much of downtown. The city will provide \$240,000, and a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund will bring in \$426,000 for construction. Another grant, from the Department of Natural Resources, in the amount of \$150,000, has yet to be approved.

Whitehall's possible townlift

The whole city of Whitehall may be getting a facelift to help improve visitor navigation and expand use of the city to draw more tourists and passersby into more businesses. Improvements that are being looked into include improved signs for parking and attractions, downtown maps to point out places of interest and stores, a trailhead for the bike trail and improved facilities.

One possible site for the trailhead for the bike trail is the park behind the Napa Auto Parts store. That park is underused, according to some residents, and bathroom facilities, benches for trail users and a phone booth to dial codes for various city sectors — the marina, for example — would increase that use. Ample parking already exists at the site for people to use as a loading and unloading point for bike rides.

This summer, the city plans to have a person with information and a cell phone walking around the downtown area and parks to assist visitors in finding information about businesses and history.

Decrease in balding

Bald eagle sightings dropped by more than half from last year, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The mild winter kept eagles from having to migrate as far south as in previous years, meaning not as many were spotted in Muskegon County.

Volunteers, who report the sightings, spotted 49 eagles this year compared with 112 last winter. It's not just in Muskegon County. A record 1,510 eagles were reported in early 2001 statewide; this year that number was 990. In 2000, that number was even lower at 782.

Many know Owasippe as a likely place to spot bald

eagles due to the almost annual nesting of a pair somewhere in camp. Eagles nests have been spotted throughout the years at almost all section camps.

Gypsies keep moving

It seems the gypsy moths have lived up to their names and moved out of both the Owasippe and Chicagoland areas. Both areas will not be spraying for the leaf-eating creatures. A combination of past sprayings, a viral disease and an undesirable fungus have worked together to bring the level of gypsy moths down to where spraying isn't necessary.

Egg masses are measured in early spring to estimate the probability of the creatures becoming overabundant, to the danger of trees. Both states have said they will keep a watch on the animals this summer to see if spraying may become necessary either this year or next year.

You're such a luger

Think it's the same-old-same-old in Michigan? Think again. A proposed \$3 million project could bring luge to Muskegon. The Winter Sports Complex in Muskegon State Park currently serves an average 20,000 visitors each winter. The proposal would enclose an ice rink and luge track to keep both refrigerated so the facility wouldn't be dependent on weather as it is now. The changes could possibly bring in 100,000 people per winter and could serve as a national Olympic luge training facility.

The city council is seeking money from numerous sources including grants, local businesses and residents. The goal is to break ground next fall and have the new complex ready by the following winter.

***Vibrations always
needs copy!***

Opinions • Stories • Legends
Artwork • Photos
Editorial Comments • Grapevine News

Address all such materials to:
OSA Vibrations
P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154
or e-mail: osavibrations@owasippe.com

Galloping Grapevine



Dan Ferguson ~ San Antonio, TX

Dan wrote in to let us know how much he likes reading the newsletter. Now a unit commissioner with the Alamo Area Council, Dan first attended Owasippe in 1979 and remembers those years with fondness. Even though he's in Texas, he says he can still feel and hear the spirit of Owasippe in all he does. Thanks for nearly 25 years of Scouting involvement.

Jason Kulak ~ Tinley Park, IL

An Eagle induction ceremony was held for the fourth and final Kulak son on April 14. Jason, of Troop 442, is a former Owasippe staffman. The whole family took part in the ceremony along with many other long-time Owasippe faces. Congratulations Jason on your great achievement!

Matt Lotter ~ Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Matt sends hellos from the Coast Guard while stationed in Cuba. He writes, "I must let all of you know that life is hard here. We fly patrols, swim in the sea, get a tan, and of course drink lots of beer. Unfortunately I cannot get into details of exactly what we are doing here. Hope all is well north of here. I'll be in Cuba until Monday afternoon; then it is off to the boat for an unknown amount of time. I wish I could call, but the going rate is \$2.85 per minute! Take care."
— You do the same, Matt.

Bill and Kelly Ness ~ Chicago, IL

Nicholas William Ness was born on February 15th at 10:03 a.m. weighing in at 7lbs., 3oz. and 20.5 inches. Bill and Kelly thank all family and friends for all the prayers and support. Congratulations on your new addition; all the best!

Karrie and Steve Troccoli ~ Harwood Heights, IL

Lauren and her parents, Karrie and Steve, are proud to announce the newest Troccoli, Isabelle Ann. She was born on December 17th at 6:12 p.m. and barely tipped the scales at 5 lbs., 7 oz., 18 inches long. Welcome to Isabelle, and congratulations to the whole family!



REMEMBER!
Staff Development
is Owasippe's Future

Send all contributions to:
Staff Development
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

the  **Pub Crawl** 

is being planned for this June!

(date & location to be announced)

must be 21 or older to attend

the  **Candlelight Bowl** 

is being planned for this fall!

(date & location to be announced)

Visit the OSA online at www.owasippe.com



See you at the end of the trail...

Mary Kay (Posen) Saini ~ Muskegon, MI

We are very saddened to report Mary Kay was tragically killed in a one-car accident near Traverse City, Michigan, on March 2, 2002. Mary Kay and her husband, Baljit, were treating their employee and her husband to a weekend away. Shortly before reaching Traverse City, they hit a patch of black ice, which caused them to lose control of the car and hit a tree. Baljit suffered some bumps and bruises, Barb suffered some broken ribs, Don was in critical but stable condition, and Mary Kay was killed instantly by the impact. She was only 36 years old.

A wake was held in Itasca, Ill., the following Wednesday and the funeral on Thursday. Many friends and family, including much of the OSA family, were present to share sympathy and memories of Mary Kay. Mary Kay's smile and good humor will be missed by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

Virginia M. Nothnagel ~ Northbrook, IL

Virginia, age 87, beloved mother of Henry Nothnagel, Betty Waznis and James Nothnagel passed away in February. Virginia will be dearly missed.

Mr. Salzman ~

Mr. Salzman, father of Russ, Dale & Kurt Salzman passed away in March. We're gonna miss you Mr. S.

The Grapevine needs grapes! e-mail us at osavibrations@owasippe.com

Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Membership dues DIRECTLY paid for this very newsletter!

Check the 4 digit number on your mailing label. According to our records, that is the last year you paid your dues.

Please send checks to: OSA, P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154

Owasippe Staff Association
2002
Board of Directors

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*I hereby submit my request to register as a member
and my support of the OSA's purpose*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

email: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Service at Owasippe:

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names & Ages: _____

Mail to:
OSA
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154
attn: Membership



New Member	\$20	_____
Renewal	\$15	_____
Lifetime	\$250	_____

Visit the OSA online at www.owasippe.com

*The Owasippe Staff Association
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154*



Vibrations is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

Editorial Staff: Ron and Susan Derby

The opinions stated by contributors to *Vibrations* are those of the authors and are not by fact of publication necessarily those of the Owasippe Staff Association or its Board of Directors. Publication does not imply endorsement. All materials are subject to editing.

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are encouraged. Address all such materials to: ***Vibrations Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154.*** All materials which the author wants returned must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring ~ January 15
- Summer ~ April 1
- Fall ~ August 7
- Winter ~ October 15

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

May

- 10-11 CIT Shakedown Weekend
- 15 Board Meeting
- 16-20 Owasippe Bioblitz Weekend 1
- 17-19 OSA Spring Fix-it

June

- ? OSA Pub Crawl
- 19 Board Meeting
- 22-29 Staff Week
- 30 1st Day of Camp

July

- 17 Board Meeting

August

- 7 Vibrations Copy Deadline
- 10 Last Day of Camp
- 18-20 Owasippe Bioblitz Weekend 2
- 21 Board Meeting
- 25 OSA Family Picnic

September

- 18 Board Meeting
- 20-22 OSA Fall Fix-it



SPRING FIX-IT 2002



MAY 17-19

Can you make it?
How many volunteers are you bringing?

**Call Dan Kleinfeldt today
and make your reservations
773-594-9585**

Our main focus for the Spring Fix-it will be to install infiltrators at the Blackhawk staff kybo and put in a wood chip trail system at COPE. We will also be doing minor work at the Wolverine firebowl, some painting at Reneker and lots of other stuff.

Don't forget to bring your tools!
Hammers • Drills • Gloves • Shovels
Rakes • Wheelbarrows • Paint Brushes & Rollers