



Volume 43, Issue 2 - May 2021

VIBRATIONS NEWSLETTER

43rd Annual Dinner Dance Goes Virtual

by Michelle O'Connor



On Saturday, March 6, the OSA hosted its first-ever online annual meeting. Known in better times as the Dinner Dance, our Digital Campfire brought in about 80 members to cover official OSA business, fundraise for upcoming projects, and to chat. The breakout rooms made for a nice chance to catch up with fellow members and the virtual format gave us a chance to see many folks who can't usually make the trip for the in-person event.

The OSA Ad Book brought in \$2,176 and the annual raffle added an additional \$1,500 to go towards OSA Programs. Raffle winners included Scott Dorencz (Apple AirPods), Vince Rychtanek (KitchenAid Mixer), Mike Tranchita (Bosch Drill), and Suzy Smyth (\$650 Ultimate Split-the-pot). Congratulations to all and thank you to all who attended.

The OSA would also like to extend a huge thank you to Danny Klienfeldt, who, in addition to the work he consistently puts in as our elections chair, went above and beyond in helping with setup and running of the meeting, as well as all who worked to put this event together and to all who took ads in the ad book!

The newsletter for the members of the Owasippe Staff Association

The Results Are In!

by Michelle O'Connor

With an online Dinner Dance event, this year also brought about a move to online voting for the election of our board members. A record-breaking 161 members voted in the board election, with 152 of the votes being cast online (mail-in ballots were offered upon request). As always, voter names were checked against the membership database to ensure all participants were in good standing, though the votes themselves remained anonymous. Tallies were double checked to ensure an accurate and secure election. A huge congratulations to our newly elected board members, Chris, Mike, and Wally.

2021 Board Members:

Kevin Harper, PRESIDENT

Michelle O'Connor, VICE PRESIDENT

Jen (Kempa) Kotwasinski, SECRETARY

Adam Keene, TREASURER

Candy Merritt, Henry Nakazawa, Chris Sanchez

Wally Kleinfeldt, Mike Brus

Spring Fix it

by Adam Keene

Spring is finally here! That means our Spring Fix-It is just around the corner, so mark your calendars for **May 21-23**, the weekend before Memorial Day. If it's been a few years since your last trip to camp, the work weekend is a great excuse!

We have a specific need for Carpentry and Electrical skilled labor, so if you possess these skills or know someone who does, please consider coming up. However, no matter what your skill level, there will be plenty of things to accomplish to help camp get ready for this summer's season.

If you are interested in coming, please RSVP by May 12th with Adam Keene at 708-567-2678 or akeene2@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- 2) Alcohol is strictly prohibited on Owasippe property.
- 3) Ground fires are not allowed by Reneker Cabins.

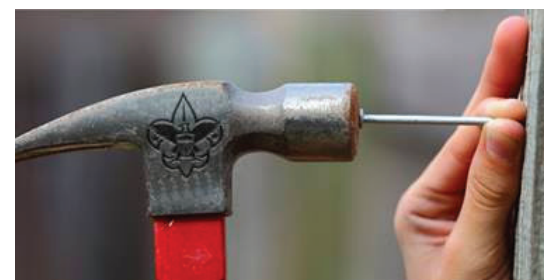
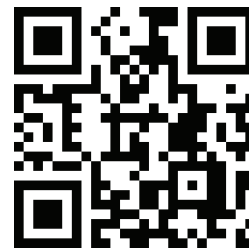
Amazon Smiles

If you are making a purchase from Amazon.com consider using the link below before you put items in your cart!

By shopping with the OSA's Amazon Smiles program a percentage of your purchase will be donated from Amazon to the OSA—no fees, no extra cost!



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3039912>



MEET THE 2021 CAMP DIRECTORS

The Owasippe Reservation leadership team has many returning and familiar faces for 2021. We hope that the consistency of leadership helps us to continue to grow the program to provide an amazing experience to as many Scouts and units as possible!



Reservation Director - Nick Chavarria

Nick is returning for his 3rd summer at Owasippe, serving in 2018 and 2019 as the Blackhawk Camp Director. He is the Director of Student Activities and a social studies teacher at Hinsdale South High School in Darien, Illinois. Prior to joining the Owasippe family, he served for 8 years as a Camp Director at another Boy Scouts of America camp from 2010-2017. He is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow, a lifetime member of the OSA, attended the 2010 National Scout Jamboree as well as served on staff at the 2015 NOAC.



Assistant Reservation Dir. - Sean Murray

Sean is joining Owasippe for his first summer. Sean currently is a high school math teacher at the Academy of Our Lady near New Orleans, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Villanova University's school of business and recently earned a Masters in Education from the University of Notre Dame. Sean has previously served for 5 years in various program and management positions at Rainbow Scout Reservation in Morris, IL. He is an Eagle Scout, Founder's Award recipient, and Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow, and has also served on staff at the 2015 NOAC and 2016 NEXT conferences.



High Adventure Director - Nicole Valle

Nicole is returning to Owasippe for her 11th summer. In 2015, she moved into the position of High Adventure Director and has been working to grow the program ever since. When not at camp, Nicole runs an elementary School library and works as part of a reading intervention team servicing students at the early elementary level. She has an associate's degree in art and is currently working on getting a pottery business up and running. When Nicole first joined camp staff she was entirely new to scouting, but now Owasippe has become her second home.



Blackhawk Camp Director - Dalton DeVries

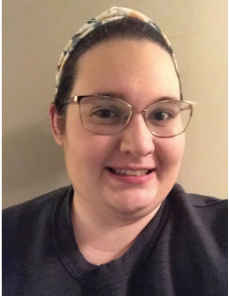
This will be Dalton's 7th summer on staff at Camp Blackhawk, GO! He joined the leadership team in 2018 as Head Commissioner, served as Program Director in 2019, and ran the 2020 online summer camp offerings for both Owasippe and Napowan. He is an Eagle Scout, Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, member of the Owasippe Staff Association, and attended the 2013 National Jamboree. Dalton is graduating from the Cinema and Television Production program at Columbia College Chicago this spring where he currently is a Teaching Assistant and Broadcast Engineer.



Wolverine Camp Director - Kevin Goldberg

Kevin is returning to Owasippe as the Wolverine Camp Director. He has been in this position since 2017. Prior to Wolverine, Kevin served on camp staff at Gerber Scout Reservation for nine years including three as Camp Director. He is a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow, Founder's Award recipient, and former Committee Chair of his Troop. Outside of Scouting, he is a math teacher at Cedar Springs High School in Kent County, Michigan.

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Reneker Camp Director - Tiffani Gibson

Tiffani is returning for her 6th summer at Owasippe as Reneker's Camp Director, serving previously at Reneker as an Age Group Leader from 2015-2018 and Assistant Camp Director in 2019. Currently, she is a social studies teacher near Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she also serves as a Student Council Advisor and an Academic Team Coach.



Book your stay at Camp Reneker this summer!

by Tiffani Gibson

Want to GO FOR IT this summer at Reneker? What better way to support the reservation than by participating in it's amazing program! Weekly cabin rentals are still available starting June 23rd and ending August 7th. Cabin rental is \$450, with a \$100 discount if you have a troop/pack camping at Owasippe. Visit the pool, hike to the bogs, or join in on a staff lead age group program and high adventure activity!

Go to the following website to view
our available cabins and register:

<https://scoutingevent.com/456-Reneker2021>

Any questions? Email reneiderfamilycamp@gmail.com



Pitcher Perfect Work Weekend Addition

by Kevin Harper

Searching for a cold beverage in town? If you are attending the OSA work weekend in a couple weeks this is for you! Check out the newly opened Sawyers Brewing Company in Montague. They are a new homebrew supply store that also teaches homebrewing processes and has a tasting room just a few yards away from the weather vane monument. In collaboration with Bluelake Hops, a local hop farm owned by OSA life member Jim Sclichting, the two have brewed a Pale Ale. This is made with West Michigan grains, Michigan Copper and Michigan Mackinaw hops. The first pours of this beer will be available for consumption just in time for the OSA Work Weekend. A \$0.50 donation per pour will go back to the OSA and will accumulate as the brew remains popular at Sawyers Brewing in Montague. The name and label of this brew are both still being worked out. All brewing cost and the hops for this first brew has been supplied by Bluelake Hops.



OWASIPPE TAKES FIRST STEPS TOWARD ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

by Eric Anderson

In the Summer of 2020 PTAC, at the Owasippe Scout Reservation, began a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife and Muskegon County Conservation District to restore close to 300 acres of oak barrens ecosystem. Oak barrens occur in areas with sand and loamy sand soils typically considered low quality for most agricultural purposes. Scattered white and black oak with native grasses and wildflowers fill the gaps.

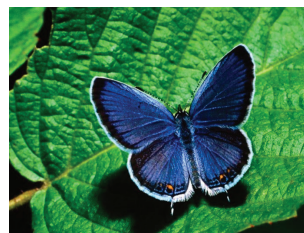
Besides the soils component, the dominant factor in maintaining oak barrens is regular (every 3 years or so) prescribed burning. Since the 1920's government policy of removing fire from the landscape, road construction and development have meant the fragmentation and gradual degradation of oak barrens trending toward closed-canopy woodlands where sun-loving wildflowers and young oak trees cannot survive.

The first step in the multi-year partnership started in late summer with prescribed burning in areas visible from Holton-Whitehall road and along Russell Road. This area had a plantation of red pine that was harvested around 2017 as a pine beetle infestation was threatening to kill the entire stand. A third area of about 315 acres in the southeast corner of the reservation will also be burned. The goal of the burn is twofold: to kill or knockback young woody species, and to

remove the thatch and debris layer from the ground for fall prairie seeding. Most woodland, prairie, and wetland ecosystems in Michigan rely on regular disturbances, usually fire, to maintain their diversity.

What are the conservation goals guiding this project? The Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) is a federally threatened species whose larvae survive solely on wild lupine, a typical oak barrens/sand prairie species. Though scattered patches of lupine can be found around Owasippe, large connected corridors are not present. Restoration of oak barrens ecosystem will directly benefit the Karner blue butterfly. So we are starting a hashtag #savetheKBB with photos from social media of our (and others) efforts.

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President's Perspective

by Kevin Harper

Hello Members!

Thank you to all who attended our 43rd annual meeting and digital campfire. With everything that has gone on in the past year, I would say that this gathering was a great success. It was wonderful to see all of our members come together, discuss, and reminisce. The breakout rooms by camp and year were an excellent way to connect with new and old staff and see some friends we may not have seen in a bit. Overall, a great night with great people! Thank you to our outgoing board members, Bob Kurth, Rachel Weber, and Greg Lange. We would also like to welcome our new board members, Michael Brus, Chris Sanchez, and Wally Kleinfeldt.

I also would like to promote to the entire membership that we have a few committee chair positions open for those interested. The openings are membership, osa history, and fundraising. Please email the osa at osainfobooth@gmail.com if you are interested in any of these openings. Hoping to see all of our members at work weekend and/or around camp this summer!

OSA APPERAL NOW AVAILABLE!

Orders must be in by 5/5/21 in order to receive your items at the Spring Fix-It Weekend.

Shipping is NOT included if you wish to have it delivered.



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ONLINE STORE
[HTTPS://OWASIPPE.COM/
WAYS-TO-HELP/STORE/](https://owasippe.com/ways-to-help/store/)



A
Short Sleeve
LADIES "V" Neck
60/40 cotton/poly



B
Short Sleeve Shirt
60/40 cotton/poly



C
Long Sleeve Shirt
60/40 cotton/poly



D
3/4 Sleeve Shirt
triblend shirt



E
Hoodie - Grey/Black
50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly



F
Hoodie - Black/Green
50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly



G
Full Zip Hoodie Grey/Black
50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly



H
Full Zip Hoodie Black/Green
50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly

First Steps to Ecosystem Restoration

by Eric Anderson

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Stages of restoration to take place in 2021 and 2022 include tree removal/harvest on approximately 130 acres across Holton-Whitehall Road from Reneker Family Camp, and an area in the west edge of the reservation, south of Camp Crown referred to as Smoke Valley which is mostly grass (Pennsylvania sedge).

The harvest across from Reneker will leave clusters of large oaks with significant space in between with the goal of at least 70% open canopy. After 1 to 2 years of allowing existing grasses to grow, a prescribed burn will take place followed by prairie seeding. In short, trees will be cut down, but not all of them. The resulting ecosystem will be teeming with wildflowers and wildlife. These areas that are seldom utilized and visited by scouts at camp have the potential to become hot spots of biodiversity and scouting interest.

In the Outdoor Code, scouts profess to do their best to be conservation-minded. Restoring sections of Owasippe to its pre-settlement landscape fit into that conservation ethic. Further, scouts will have the opportunity to take part in this effort.

If you have interest in volunteering to help Eric with this restoration project, please reach out to him at ericandemelson@gmail.com, or to Adam Keene (Fix-It Chair), at akeene2@gmail.com.

West Michigan Outpost

by Dalton DeVries

As a staff member you may have explored West Michigan's local attractions in your freetime. Whether it be an afternoon in Whitehall, Fremont or Twin Lake, or a longer trip to Muskegon, Silverlake, or Grand Rapids we've all explored some 'outposts' away from camp. In this new segment we will be sharing tidbits about what's happening locally around OSR!



- Whitehall is home to a new Culver's Restaurant! Built between the Burger King and Little Caesars Pizza the chain will offer dine in and drive through service through 10:30 pm.

- The Contest, a 124-foot schooner that grounded near Whitehall, Mich. in 1882 is now visible along the Lake Michigan shoreline near the White Lake channel. The shipwreck re-emerged due to changing lake levels and shifting beach sand and could easily be swallowed back up by the shore soon. If you have a chance to visit the channel lighthouse, stop by this sight just a walk away!

Upcoming Dates of Interest to OSA Members

May

6th	OSA Board Meeting
21st-23rd	OSA Spring-Fix It Weekend
29th-31st	OA Work Weekend

June

20th	OSR Staff Week begins
27th	Summer Camp Begins

July

4th	Summer Camp Session 2
7th	Webelos Camp Session 1
11th	Summer Camp Session 3
18th	Summer Camp Session 4
25th	Summer Camp Session 5

August

1st	Summer Camp Session 6
	Webelos Camp Session 2
4th	Webelos Camp Session 3
7th	Summer Camp Ends

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Editor: Dalton B. DeVries

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.

Articles, tidbits, and photos are encouraged. Submissions can be made out to vibrations@owasippe.com or mailed to: OSA 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	(Issue 1)	January 15
• Summer	(Issue 2)	April 1
• Fall	(Issue 3)	August 7
• Winter	(Issue 4)	October 15

Connect with us!

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