



VOLUME 44, ISSUE 2

# VIBRATIONS

## NEWSLETTER

### Another Successful Spring Fix-It

*By Wally Kleinfeldt, Fix it Chair*

Well the 2022 Spring Fix-it is in the books. We had a great turnout and mother nature cooperated. The crews were excited to be at camp and to get busy getting projects completed. Some of the projects included repairs to the staff cabin roofs at Tent City, clearing downed trees and removing some dead ones throughout the camps. The new curtains were supplied and hung at Camp Reneker. Camp Blackhawk's scoutmasters tent was erected and dock sections moved into place. The area around the three new staff cabins was cleared and leveled. The Forge building was sided and the kybo doors and walls replaced. Trading Posts were cleaned and painted and new shelves assembled at food prep. A big thank you to all that came out to help and a big shout out to the kitchen volunteers. They really out did themselves the time. Looking forward to see everyone for our Fall Fix-it. See you around the campfire



The newsletter for the members of the Owasippe Staff Association

## The 44th Annual Dinner Dance Stays Virtual

By Mike Brus

Scores of members and friends enjoyed the OSA's 44th Annual Meeting (online edition) on March 5, 2022. During the evening, we held our annual meeting, made special recognitions, conducted Board elections and raffled off some wonderful prizes. The breakout rooms made for a nice chance to catch up with fellow members and the virtual format gave us a chance see many folks who usually can't make the trip for the in-person event

The OSA Ad Book brought in \$2,200 and the new online raffle added an additional \$4,540 to go towards OSA Programs. Raffle winners included Phil Groben (Ultimate Split the Pot), Jen Kotwasinski (Guest Lodge Stay), Vince Rychtanek (Amazon Gift Card), Dan Kleinfeldt (Cabella's Gift Card), Scott Dorencz (Kitchenaid Mixer & Owasippe License Plate), Michelle Lerma (AMC Movie Basket), Adam Keene (Bell's Brewery Gift Basket & Owasippe Routed Sign), Peter Chapin (Cabela's Cooler), Bob Alexander (Fix-it Tool Kit), Curt Andrich (Sleeping Bag), Jamie Goodwin (Owasippe Trail Marker Sign), and Ron Kulak (Owasippe Routed Sign). Congratulations to all and thank you to all who attended!

The OSA would also like to extend a huge thank you once again to Danny Klienfeldt for the work he put in as our elections chairperson. A special thank you also goes out to Kevin Harper for setting up the Zoom meeting and breakout rooms and to Jen Kotwasinski for creating the online raffle site. Lastly, the OSA would like to thank all of those who worked to put this event together, all of those who donated raffle items, and all of those who took ads in the ad book! We are all looking forward to getting back together in person next year for the 45<sup>th</sup> annual dinner dance!

### The Results are In!

With last year's record-breaking amount of members who voted for the election of our board members and another year with an online dinner dance, we decided to use the online voting process again (with mail-in ballots available 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, Ron, Candy, and Kevin!

### Camp Positions Still Available!

Ever think about coming back to camp?

There is no time like this summer!

The Owasippe Trading Posts are looking for volunteers. Volunteer from one week to six weeks in any of the trading posts. For more information contact Chris Sanchez at [Paradise9913@gmail.com](mailto:Paradise9913@gmail.com)

### 2022 Board Members

Kevin Harper, PRESIDENT  
Chris Sanchez, VICE PRESIDENT  
Jen (Kempa) Kotwasinski, SECRETARY  
Ron Kulak, TREASURER  
Michelle O'Connor  
Candy Merritt  
Henry Nakazawa  
Wally Kleinfeldt  
Mike Brus

## President's Perspective

By Kevin Harper

Greetings Membership! Happy Spring! Thank you to those that attended our 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting this past March. While be it was again on zoom and our attendance was not as strong as the year prior it still was a success. The OSA membership raised \$4,540.00 through, our ad book, split the pot, and our online raffles & donations. The board has already discussed a few times the importance of hosting an in person annual meeting for 2023. We've already penned this into our monthly outlines to start researching venues for early next spring. Speaking of spring! Our spring work weekend is set for the weekend of May 20<sup>th</sup>.

I'd like to mention at this point in early April, both Wolverine and Blackhawk have almost no site availability, Reneker also has many reservations as well (some still available on the PTAC website!) . Which is fantastic to hear camp filling up, but with that news places a greater need for assistance from the OSA and our work weekend crews.



## New Members

Peter Connelly

Nicolas Pajor

Derick Steggall

Lorelei Kotwasinski

## New Life Members

Mike Brus

## Whitehall Fireworks- Cancelled



Montague-Whitehall Rotary Club

May 26 at 11:40 AM

White Lake 4th of July Fireworks cancelled for 2022

Fireworks display date will be changed to July 30 during the "Cruz'In" Weekend

Due to many factors beyond local control, including lack of fireworks inventory, proper fireworks staffing, and a significant increase in costs, the White Lake 4th of July Fireworks, sponsored by the Montague-Whitehall Rotary, will not take place this year. In collaboration with the White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Montague, and City of Whitehall, the Montague-Whitehall Rotary will instead sponsor fireworks on July 30th as part of the "Cruz'in Weekend". We look forward to providing a great fireworks display this weekend that is full of events within the community! We hope to bring fireworks back to the 4th of July in the near future.

## Schaefer Fund

The Steve Schaefer memorial fund was started in 1999 by Steve's parents Bill and Linda Schaefer. This fund is set up to give assistance to staff members who are attending college. Since its conception the fund has given over \$150,000 in cash assistance. Steve grew up at Owasippe, first spending his summers in the Grey Staff Village and later becoming a staff member. He became a CIT in 1983 and was on Blackhawk aquatics staff from 1984- 1986. Steve's life ended tragically his sophomore year of college when the house he lived in at Southern Illinois University caught fire. Instead of saving himself, Steve made sure all of his roommates were awoken and got out of the house safely. He is credited with saving all of his roommates. Donations can be made through the OSA website or sent to the PO Box.

## Reneker Cabins Curtain Update!

Thanks to a generous donation from Jean Lawrence, Reneker A Side cabins received all new curtains!



## Committee Information

We want you! Members looking for ways to “ACTIVE” after the last two years? OSA is currently looking for volunteers for the following committees and activities:

### Committees:

1. Bike/Hiking trail Committee - Seeking OSA members to join a committee to work collaboratively with Owasippe, PTAC, and the local mountain bike organization to determine the best way to utilize OSA trail maintenance funds. This trail maintenance fund was given to the OSA when the OOEC dissolved and is earmarked for improving the trails at Owasippe.
2. Media Committee - work on vibrations as well as social media presence
3. Events committee – looking for volunteers to help plan and staff events. People needed to find events that will work with younger and older members as well as coordinate timing of events.
4. Projects committee –looking for volunteers to help coordinate long term projects as well as work on fix it weekend projects. People needed to evaluate needs of the camp and what OSA is able to commit to helping complete
5. Finance committee - will look into the OSA's finances and investments to look for opportunities to ensure the organization's assets are monitored appropriately.
6. Donations- group will look inot seek yearly donations from companies and businesses for our annual dinner fundraiser as well as look into long term grants from large corporations for large scale projects at camp

### Activities:

Lake Cabin Upgrades – (Wally) with co-lead Scott Weber – Looking for volunteers to work with Scott and Wally on evaluating all the needed lake cabin upgrades and see what can be done to make the livable while assessing the long term fixes

Membership/communication clean up – (Jennifer) looking for volunteers willing to help clean up the membership list and reach out to people to confirm information as well as verify that they are receiving mailing from Constant Contact.

Anyone Interested in joining these committees please contact [osainfoooth@gmail.com](mailto:osainfoooth@gmail.com) !!!

# The Passing of Bob Ward

By Ron Kulak

With a heavy heart and a deep sense of loss, I report the death of Robert M. (Bob) Ward of Chicago who passed away on May 20, 2022 at the age of 90.

Bob was predeceased by his wife Nancy and his siblings, Betty Ann O'Donnell and Thomas Ward. He is survived by his sons, Robert Ward (Kara), Ronald Ward (Laura) and Michael Ward (Peggy); his grandchildren, Conor Ward (Lexie), Kirsten Ward, Lauren Sebastian (Sean), Ronald Ward Jr., Jonathon Ward, Paige Ward and Madelyn Ward; and his great grandchild Liam. He is also survived by his many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 25th 2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the St. Daniel the Prophet Church (5358 S Nashville Ave, Chicago, IL 60638). A funeral mass will be held immediately afterwards at St Dan's at 11:00 AM. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery nearby followed by a reception at The Mayor's Mansion (aka European Chalet) at 5445 S Harlem Ave in Chicago.

Bob was a Korean War veteran having seen combat there with the 82nd Airborne Division. He served as a volunteer leader with distinction for many years as a Cubmaster with Cub Pack 3475 and as a Scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 475, both at St Daniel The Prophet Church. For his meritorious service, he was recognized with the Silver Beaver Award, the St George Award, the Bronze Pelican Award, and the Vigil Honor Award with the Order of the Arrow, Owasippe Lodge. He also attended a World Jamboree in Sweden as a Scout Leader. Bob continued his service as a Shooting Sports Director at Camp Blackhawk at Owasippe Scout Reservation for at least ten years instructing Scouts in the skill of rifle and shotgun marksmanship and archery and exhibiting his personal collection of muskets. As a Life Member of the Owasippe Staff Association, Bob not only was on its board of directors but served admirably as its President from 1993 to 1995.

In lieu of flowers, his family has asked that donations in Robert's honor be made to the Owasippe Staff Association, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, Illinois 60154.

As we gather among friends or around our campfires, let us praise the name of Robert M Ward and fondly remember his good wit, great deeds and cheerful service.



# Update on OSR's Ecosystem Restoration

By Eric Anderson

Here is a little update on the oak barrens restoration project at Owasippe. It started with a harvest of dying (pine beetle) red pine a few years ago mostly around the intersection of Russell road and Holton-Whitehall road. With funding from US Fish & Wildlife Service for restoring karner blue butterfly habitat, we (A contractor) did prescribed burns in the Spring and fall of 2021 and portions around the Owasippe sign and the cell tower to the south were seeded with wild lupine. The land is really responding well to the prescribed burn.

Future work will include more thinning of small pines, then piling and burning debris. Prescribed burns need to occur on a regular basis not with 70 year gaps.



Lupine in the bottom of the photo is blooming since getting burned in the fall. Lupine is the only plant that the Karner blue butterfly (KBB) feeds on similar to milkweed and monarchs. Lupine needs periodic disturbance, like fire to thrive.



Lupine is sprouting in the burn scar from a slash pile.



Other plants enjoy the release of nutrients and space that prescribed burns can offer. This lady slipper orchid was a pleasant surprise deep in the burn unit.

## Tool Donations

Some months ago, vandals raided Owasippe in the dead of night along with some other neighboring camps causing damage to buildings and stealing most if not all of many valuable tools. While police investigators were brought in and arrests were made, not all of the equipment has been recovered nor any insurance claims finalized. The OSA, with the generous help of some of its members has purchased two large tool kits for the maintenance team, as well as some smaller kits for all section camps. While it doesn't replace what was stolen, they have helped ease the burden of opening camp & assisted at the spring fix it.

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

# 2022 Camp Schedule

### NEW SESSION ADDED

Session "0" – June 19 – June 25

Session 1 – June 26 – July 2

Session 2 – July 3 – July 9

Session 3 – July 10 – July 16

Session 4 – July 17 – July 23

Session 5 – July 24 – July 30

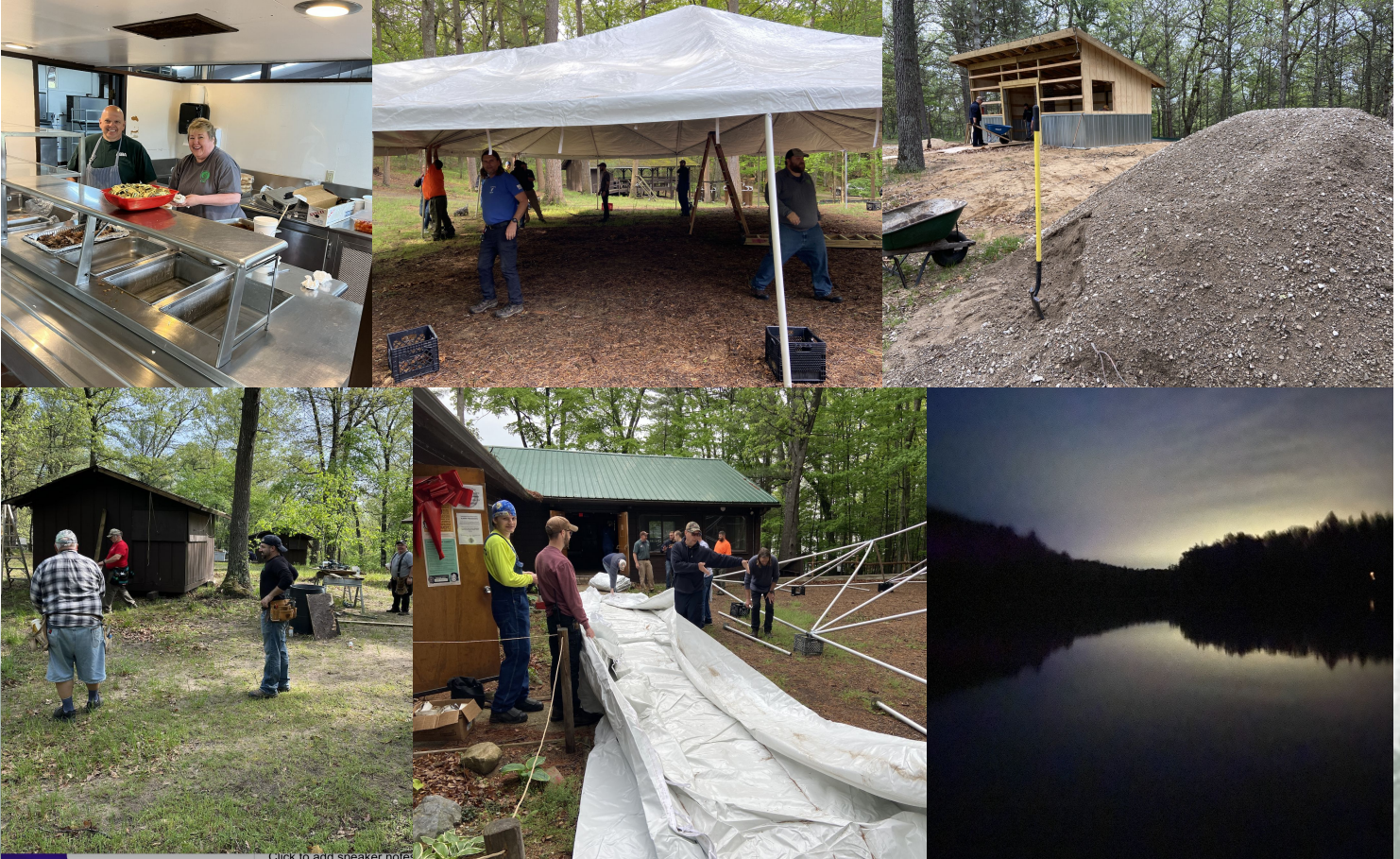
Session 6 – July 31 – August 6

## Reneker Cabin

Want to GO FOR IT this summer? Weekly cabin rentals are still available. Cabin rental is \$450, with a \$100 discount if you have a troop or pack camping at Owasippe. Scan here to book your week today!



## Additional Spring Fix-It Photos



Click to add speaker notes.

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

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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](mailto: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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Owasippe Staff Association



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