

**Fall 2012 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter**  
**August 15, 2013**

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**Welcome to the newest Canyon Camp Staff members!**

Each year brings new members to the Canyon Camp Staff – men and women who are serving their first year on the Staff. This year saw thirteen new Staff members sharing the Spirit of Canyon Camp with scouts, living in the canyon and carrying-on the traditions that make working at Camp personally rewarding. We welcome the newest Staff members to the Alumni and Friends of Canyon Camp: Graham Boudreaux (Beloit, WI), Brandon Colmark (Sterling, IL), Dylan Einsweiler (Galena, IL), Michael Leaf (Rockford, IL), Nicholas Leahy (Hazel Green, WI), Daniel Leitzinger (Freeport, IL), Alex Nelson (Crystal Lake, IL), Brenda Smallwood (Hanover, IL), Michael Spoerl (Cary, IL), Bob Stockwell (Huntley, IL), Adam Swisher (Galena, IL), Maximilian Waller (Monroe, WI), and Sean Weir (Rockfalls, IL).

**Wood Cutter's Ball set for September 28**

The thirty-fifth annual Woodcutter's Ball will be held at Canyon Camp on Saturday, September 28, 2013. The Monroe Kiwanis Club is again sponsoring this event and is inviting Scouters and friends of Canyon Camp to participate. This annual workday has the primary focus of cutting, splitting, and delivering the winter supply of firewood to the cabins used by Scouts throughout the winter months. Scouters are asked to bring chainsaws, splitters, and appropriate work clothes to work in the woods.

For those who cannot work in the woods, attendance is still encouraged as this workday is used as a time to do routine maintenance to buildings and to ready the camp for the winter camping season. Hammers, saws, and paintbrushes are all tools to be put to use this workday.

Fall is a great time to visit Canyon Camp. You will enjoy the clean fall air and enjoy the fellowship of others interested in perpetuating the Spirit of Canyon Camp.

The Monroe Kiwanis Club will again provide breakfast and lunch for all volunteers. We'll plan to start at 9:00 a.m. and break for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Kiwanians, troops, and individual Scouters are invited to participate! Contact Lee Binkley with questions or reservations: Home phone number 608-325-5540.

## **David Olson blogs about life in the Northwest Territories**

David Olson (Crystal Lake, IL, 80's Staff) lives in Hoarfrost River at the northeast end of the Great Slave Lake in Canada. He writes an interesting bog about his life in that part of the Northwest Territories. You can follow David's writing at: <http://bushedpilotblog.wordpress.com/>

## **Frank and Dona Lofy recognized on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Frank and Dona Lofy (Platteville, WI, friends of Canyon Camp) recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. The Lofy children, Paul, Pete, Mary and Patrick, recognized the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their parents' marriage with a substantial contribution to Canyon Camp. Because of the Lofy's contribution, Lee and Dick now have considerable discretion in maintaining or upgrading items at Camp that are of the most immediate need. We extend our heart-felt thanks to the Lofy family for recognizing Frank and Donna with a generous contribution to Canyon Camp.

## **2013 Summer Camp Report by Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds, Co-Camp Directors**

It does not seem possible that yet another summer camping season has come and gone. The 2013 season was uneventful by some standards...no 100 year floods and no weeklong stretch of 100 degree days. Although "uneventful" the summer was quite successful overall. The following is not a David Letterman's Top 10 List, but rather a brief recap of the highlights of our summer.

- 675 Scouts and leaders attended summer camp
- 13 New camp staff members
- 100 Tiger/Wolf/Bear Cub campers and parents
- 75 NYLT (National Youth Leader Training) staff & campers
- 8 BMX bikes for our starter program for BMX biking
- 1 Portable climbing wall (32' high with automatic and manual belay systems)
- 4 Night vision paintball goggles
- 2 Gaga ball pits (dodge ball in an octagonal frame)
- 2 new merit badges – personal fitness and geocaching
- 1 Staff member added to offer B.S.A. adult leader basic training
- 3 mystery ingredients given to adult leaders for the weekly "cook off challenge"...very popular with the leaders and especially popular with staff members that just happened to be near when the food was finished.

Tradition...fun...learning...challenges...friendships...the Spirit of Canyon Camp remains in this very special place from the Staff members who deliver the program to the scouts who come to Canyon Camp!

## **8 Spirit scholarships awarded to 2013 Summer Staff members by Ron Spielman**

The Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program began in 1992 with staff alumni contributing funds for the first scholarships. In recent years an endowment has been accumulated to generate a portion of the scholarship funding distributed each year.

There are now four named scholarships awarded each year: Troy Larson Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2005, Dennis Pratt Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2006, Lee Binkley Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2007 and Ronald Spielman Spirit Scholarship first awarded at the 2012 Staff Dinner.

At the 2013 Staff Dinner Camp Directors Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds presented eight new scholarships:

Troy Larson to Josh Riese – U.W. Whitewater  
Dennis Pratt to Anthony Kurt – Lewis University  
Lee Binkley to Joshua Feldhaus – Loras College  
Ronald Spielman to Mark Schaer – University of Illinois  
Spirit to Dan Dick – Northern Illinois University  
Spirit to Connor Daws – Ambrose College  
Spirit to Russell Erickson – Elmhurst College  
Spirit to Dan Kurth – Western Illinois University

Through 2013 scholarships totaling \$36,300 have been awarded to 113 recipients. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to nearly \$70,000 with an ultimate goal to exceed \$110, 000 in the endowment.

Scholarship funding comes from staff alumni, Scouters, and Friends of Canyon Camp. Individuals making tax-deductible contributions may select prints of pen and ink drawings of Canyon Camp scenes. To date, artist Elaine Bethke of Monroe has generated nine different prints:

Canyon Camp Bells  
Held Nature Center  
Stagecoach Trail Sign  
Jamboree Cabin  
The Chapel  
Vickery Health Lodge  
Rawleigh Headquarters Building  
Hess Farmstead Barn  
Founder's Lodge

A new Spirit Print created by Bethke will be available at the Woodcutter's Ball at Canyon Camp on September 28. If you are interested in supporting the Spirit Scholarship Fund contact Ron Spielman at 608-325-6490 or [spiel335@tds.net](mailto:spiel335@tds.net).

### **Mark Schmidt authors two books**

Mark Schmidt is a former member of the Canyon Camp Staff (1997-2007) where he

worked in numerous Staff positions; starting in the kitchen he then went to Scoutcraft Director, Health Officer, Venture Director, 1st Class Emphasis Director, Chaplain, Ranger and even a short stint in Aquatics. He is a lifelong Catholic dedicated to understanding the depth and beauty of the Church and helping others approach Her in an engaging and personal way. Mark has worked as a hospice chaplain, a campus minister, a community organizer, a camp counselor, and a classroom counselor for youth serving court ordered community treatment. He has also been an active volunteer firefighter since the year 2000 and is a certified fire instructor.

He holds undergraduate degrees in Social Work and History from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa ('05 with Honors). He also has a Master of Social Work from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa ('08). His academic studies then guided him to Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology where he earned a Master of Arts in Catholic Thought and Life ('10) which focused on the history, scripture, philosophy, and theology of the Catholic Church.

In addition to the two books described below, he has other books in development, one is a revised version of "Into Your Hands Lord" for non-denominational use (being released in August). He is also writing a companion for parents raising children with disabilities titled "Wonderfully You Made Me!" and a book geared towards couples preparing for marriage titled "As Christ Loved the Church". To contact Mark you can email him at: [gaudiumetspes27@gmail.com](mailto:gaudiumetspes27@gmail.com)

Wolves at the Door website: <https://www.createspace.com/3717119>  
"What would you do? A revolution brings prosperity for the nation; for everyone except those who refuse to join the ruling party. Party rules prohibit all expressions of religion by its members, an obligation that many simply cannot accept. Among those who refuse to bow to the "party members" are the Catholic communities determined to remain faithful to their God, making them second-class citizens in the "modern" society that has enveloped them. One young man must navigate the challenges of living under the oppressive rule of a government bent on "progress." Charlie is stuck in the Catholic slums, unemployed, and facing an uncertain future. All that changes when a young man is murdered by police and Charlie must decide if he is going to join the partisans in hopes of ending the oppression. What will Charlie do? How will he decide how to defeat the evil that surrounds him? Will the path he chooses cause him to become the evil he seeks to defeat or will he choose another path? Catholic saints throughout history have faced similar peril and situations. Each one responded in a unique way; some by picking up the sword, others by handing themselves over for martyrdom. Charlie must decide if he will take up the armed struggle or follow another path. Will he make the right decision or will he allow his passions to get the better of him?"

Into Your Hands Lord website: <https://www.createspace.com/4184632>  
"Contemporary society attempts to ignore the reality of death. Unfortunately, this leaves many people unprepared and/or unwilling to handle the challenges faced when they, or their loved ones, receive a terminal diagnosis. "Into Your Hands Lord: A Catholic Companion to Dying and Hospice Care" is a simple guide to assist in the journey towards death and into new life. Grounded in the Passion of the Christ and Catholic teaching, this companion will assist families in discussing issues such as: artificial nutrition and hydration, pain medications, coping with the

absence of a loved one, and various other aspects of the dying process." Nihil Obstat: Rev. Richard L. Schaefer Censor Deputatus Imprimatur: Most Rev. Jerome Hanus, O.S.B. Apostolic Administrator, Dubuque Archdiocese The nihil obstat and imprimatur are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained herein that those who granted the nihil obstat and imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

**Gary Hollister recognized with a James E. West Award for service To Canyon Camp  
by Ron Spielman**

On a Wednesday night (July 17, 2013) at Canyon Camp with Scouts, Scouters and parents from Troop 206 looking on, Gary Hollister was surprised by Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds with the presentation of a James E. West Fellowship Award. The award was made possible by friends of Canyon Camp supporting the Spirit Scholarship Endowment.

Gary Hollister has devoted his Time & Talent for the betterment of Scouting and Canyon Camp for over fifty years. Gary is a son of Vern & Shirley Hollister, originally of Savanna and Gary earned his Eagle as a member of the troop led by his Scoutmaster father. Shirley Hollister manufactured the camp neckerchiefs for fifty years for Canyon Camp.

Gary has provided scouting leadership in a wide variety of positions. With Troop 206 he served as Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, and Committee Member. As a troop leader he regularly spent a week at Canyon Camp with scouts from Troop 206. While in the military stationed in Germany Gary assisted with scouts where he was serving.

Gary has served as Trek Leader taking scouts on canoe trips and to Philmont. Gary has been faithful in his support of the Continuous Fire. Devoted countless hours to the creation and nurturing of a Troop Garden. Gary is active with the Methodist Church in the Roscoe area and annually provides leadership during church mission trips.

Gary is a role model for his Cheerful Service to Scouting and both Council Camps. Gary was recognized for his service with the Vigil Honor in Order of the Arrow.

At Canyon Camp Gary Hollister has been visible many weekends providing his trucks, tools and personal expertise and labor constructing and maintaining virtually every structure in camp. Most recently in 2012 Gary spent countless hours assisting with the construction of the Horizontal Climbing Wall. The still new Spirit Pavilion benefited greatly from Gary's efforts during its construction.

The newest Staff Cabin, new roofs on the Dining Hall & Rawleigh Cabin and regular repairs to the fifty-year-old Staff Cabins all were made possible with the significant physical effort provided by Gary Hollister. Gary and his chain saws are regular fixtures during Work Weekends as Gary brings skills and expertise needed when dealing with some of the large oaks and other trees needing to be dropped to prevent later potential injury.

Gary Hollister is MOST WORTHY of James E. West recognition. There is an adage that says "The most important single influence in the life of a person is another person....who is worthy of emulation." As a leader of scouts and as a leader of scouting volunteers Gary Hollister is indeed worthy of emulation.