

**Fall 2018 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter**  
**October 20, 2018**

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**10 new Staff Members at Canyon Camp**

Ian Bryant (St. Charles, IL), Jacob Costa (Belvidere, IL), Nedallas Hammill (Phoenix, AZ), Alan Hopp (Dixon, IL), Jack Jordan (Wheaton, IL), Samuel Satterlee (Rockford, IL), Bruce Small (Galena, IL), Kaleb Ward (Benton, WI), Lucas Weickert (Rockford, IL), and Owen Wells (Galena, IL) all joined the Canyon Camp Staff for their first summer in 2018. We welcome these scouters to the ranks of the Canyon Camp Staff. These individuals experienced the same things you and I did our first year –walking the grounds and trails every day, teaching Scouts to live and be comfortable in the outdoors, leading their first song in the Dining Hall or at a Campfire, sleeping in the Staff area, and transmitting the Spirit of Canyon Camp that has been passed down through every collection of Staff members throughout time. A hearty welcome to these ten new Staff members from all of us! We hope you have may more years on the Canyon Camp Staff continuing the tradition of offering Scouts the best summer camp experience possible!

**Fall Woodcutters Ball set for October 13 at Canyon Camp**

Don't forget to put the Kiwanis Woodcutter's Ball on your calendar for Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The day kicks off with a continental breakfast starting at 8:00 AM. Please RSVP with the number attending to Lee Binkley at: Home phone number 608/325-5540 or email [leebinkley@hotmail.com](mailto:leebinkley@hotmail.com)

Enthusiasm for supporting Canyon Camp and the desire to be in the outdoors are the only things you need to bring to the Woodcutters Ball! Join a work project for any part of the day, a lunch and social time for all in attendance will be in the Dining Hall from 1:00 – 2:00, and additional work projects will continue through the afternoon until about 4 PM for those who can stay. We could really use your support and enthusiasm at this event – so why not come spend the day at Canyon Camp on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>? Call or email Lee with the number attending so we can plan adequate food!! (Home phone number: 608/325-5540 or [leebinkley@hotmail.com](mailto:leebinkley@hotmail.com))

**2018 Summer Camp Report - by Lee Binkley and Dick Reynolds**

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed since I sat at a computer to recap the 2017 season. Once again it is time to reminisce a bit and report to you that Canyon Camp had a great 2018 summer.

We got a great jump on the summer as we once again hosted the Spring Conclave for Wulapeju Lodge #140. The ongoing effort to stay even or ahead of the Emerald Ash Borer and

Dutch Elm disease continues to be a challenge. A large number of trees were dropped in May and then worked up at the conclave. Many thanks to the Order of the Arrow and camp staff for tackling this task. Additionally, work was done to start the campsite setup process.

Area directors reported to camp on June 7<sup>th</sup> with the full staff, 42 strong, in camp on June 10<sup>th</sup>. A seasoned staff worked well together to prepare camp and program areas for greeting scouts on Father's Day. June and July brought 668 scouts and leaders as well as 140 cubs and parents to camp to experience the special spirit that is Canyon Camp.

Following the 2017 flood there was concern about the availability of programming for the 2018 season. Thanks to the tremendous efforts from scores of volunteers and the camp staff throughout last fall, winter, and this spring we were able to offer all traditional as well as expanded programming this summer.

Scouts were able to participate in six new merit badges based on requests from the 2017 summer evaluations. Those badges were Animation, Chemistry, Electricity, Music, Moviemaking, and Public Speaking.

As a promotion effort for the 2019 season scouts were given the opportunity to vote for their choice of elements to be installed on a new high ropes course to be installed this fall and winter. We certainly look forward to this new program offering for the 2019 season.

We did experience one "event" this summer. On "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>" of July we had quite a wind storm and thunder shower. When you can stand in the center of the dining hall and get wet from horizontal rain you better understand the power of 60-70 mph winds. We had a couple buildings take a hit from trees and significant tree damage throughout camp. Much has been cleaned up with much more to tackle at the Kiwanis Woodcutter's Ball on October 13<sup>th</sup>. These "events" challenge us, but it also strengthens our resolve to provide great experiences for youth.

Although organized programming is complete for this summer, plans are well underway for next summer... the 83<sup>rd</sup> season on the banks of Coon Creek.

From Dick and myself we say a sincere "thank you" to one and all for your part in making Canyon Camp special in 2018!

### **New Spirit Scholarships named for Mike Beeth and Gene Nott**

Two Spirit Scholarships were named for Mike Beeth and Gene Nott this summer. Mike has been closely involved with the Spirit Scholarship program since its 1992 inception. He served twelve years as a staff member of the Canyon Camp Staff and was a key leader of the Cub Scout Great Western Day Camps that originated with Bill Kline at Canyon Camp. Mike has been recognized as a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow and received the District Award of Merit in 1985 and the Silver Beaver award in 1987. He has been instrumental in organizing every Staff Reunion - bringing back multiple generations of former and current staff members to preserve and share memories and to recognize how all attendees were influenced by their Canyon Camp experience.

Staff members who receive the Michael Beeth Spirit Scholarship will likely be known for their loyalty to Canyon Camp as well as their desire to assure every young camper has a positive

experience while at Canyon Camp. Scholarship recipients will likely also exhibit a consistent willingness to model and encourage fellow staff members to share their summer experiences with each new generation of summer camp staff to assure the preservation and continuation of all that constitutes the evolving Spirit of Canyon Camp.

Quiet, caring and effective service to Canyon Camp for over thirty years evidences Gene Nott's personal support and nourishment of The Spirit of Canyon Camp. Gene has a strong and lengthy history in Scouting history – achieving the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 28 of Rock Grove, Illinois. Gene is a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award for his many volunteer efforts to Wetassa District, the Blackhawk Area Council and for his exemplary service as the Chair of the Canyon Camp Properties Committee.

Maintaining all that is Canyon Camp has required Gene to devote his time, talent and treasure all year round on nearly a daily basis. Now in his fourth decade of service as a Friend of Canyon Camp, evidence of Gene's commitment to this service are visible in the many buildings that he helps to maintain, and invisible in much of the infrastructures throughout camp. The well would not be pumping water, the gate on the dam would not open or close, and the filter on the pool would not operate without his knowledge and efforts.

Gene Nott is the first individual for whom a Spirit Scholarship is named who has not previously served as a member of the summer camp staff. Staff members receiving the Gene Nott Spirit Scholarship will likely be known for their humble and caring leadership, their patient perseverance, their love and appreciation for this unique camp here beside Coon Creek and their willingness to help others without being asked.

Mike and Gene are honored to receive this recognition and want to thank all who made this possible.

### **11 Spirit Scholarships awarded to 2018 Camp Staff members**

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 majority of the scholarship funding distributed each year.

With the addition of two new scholarships, there are now six named scholarships that will be awarded each year: the Troy Larson Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2005, Dennis Pratt Spirit Scholarship in 2006, Lee Binkley Spirit Scholarship in 2007, Ronald Spielman Spirit Scholarship in 2012, with the newly created Michael Beeth and Gene Nott Spirit Scholarships being awarded for the first time at this year's Staff Dinner.

Camp Directors Lee Binkley & Dick Reynolds presented eleven scholarships to the following recipients this year:

Troy Larson Scholarship to Alex Kloeping, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
Dennis Pratt Scholarship to Dalton Miles, University of Wisconsin -Platteville  
Lee Binkley Scholarship to Matthew Wasson, University of Wisconsin -Platteville  
Ron Spielman Scholarship to Adam Swisher, Creighton University  
Michael Beeth Scholarship to Seth Kannarr, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
Gene Nott Scholarship to Connor Kloss, Rock Valley College  
Spirit Scholarship to Riley Cox, Illinois State University

Spirit Scholarship to Dylan Einsweiler, Northwest Iowa College  
Spirit Scholarship to Kyle Marx, Rock Valley College  
Spirit Scholarship to Jacob Pacheco, Seton Hall University  
Spirit Scholarship to Drew Wyss, University of Wisconsin - Stout

Through 2018 scholarships totaling \$52,075 have been awarded to 155 recipients. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to over \$100,000 with an ultimate goal to exceed \$150,000 in the endowment to perpetually fund Staff Scholarships at Canyon Camp for the foreseeable future.

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 ten 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 and the Dining Hall Historical Signs.

If you are interested in supporting the Spirit Scholarship Fund contact Ron Spielman @ 608-325-6490 or [spiel335@tds.net](mailto:spiel335@tds.net)

At the Woodcutter's Ball on October 13<sup>th</sup> all ten of the Bethke Spirit Prints will be available. By supporting the Spirit Scholarship Endowment you can select prints for yourself or to give them to others. In addition, several other items will be available for purchase with all proceeds supporting the Spirit Scholarship Endowment. Staff Alum John Weber has again been crafting a variety of wooden benches made exclusively from Canyon Camp woods. Check out the variety of sizes and woods to select something for your porch or campground...all while supporting the Spirit Scholarships. Finally, there are metal castings created by Lemfco Foundry of Galena that you will find interesting for yourself or to reward your favorite Scout or Scouter. Join us for lunch on October 13<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the Fall weather and to support the Spirit Scholarship program.

### **How about a cup of coffee, or maybe we should share a meal?**

There is no need to wait for the 2021 reunion of the Canyon Camp Staff and Friends to get together with old friends – do it today! This past summer Kim Klahsen and Tom Wright visited Camp on a Wednesday night and stayed over to see the induction ceremony for new inductees into the Order of the Arrow on Thursday; Mike Beeth, Kevin Lamm and Dave Fetty got together to share a pizza in the Chicago area; and when Lyle Novinski was back in Wisconsin visiting family, Ron Spielman, Mike Beeth, Bill Determan, Josh Ehlers, and Lee Binkley met him for dinner. Regulars on Wednesday nights at Camp included Doug Toepfer, Gene Nott, Paul Holtz, Jim Connors...and Jim Smith showed up at Canyon Camp. Jim served on the Staff in the 1950's and hadn't been back for many, many years. We were glad to see Jim back in Camp and it was great to learn about his experiences and reestablish our connection with him.

We hope you can visit Canyon Camp for the Fall Woodcutters Ball, Spring Work Weekend, a Wednesday or when you are back in the area but if you can't – call up an old friend or two and arrange a time for a cup of coffee or find a date and share a meal. I guarantee you will smile, you will laugh, you will share stories, and you will feel good about renewing your relationships that started at Canyon Camp!

The photo below was taken after a dinner with Lyle Novinski in Blanchardville, WI on August 11, 2018.



(l to r: Mike Beeth, Ron Spielman, Josh Ehlers, Lee Binkley, Lyle Novinski, Bill Determan)