

Spring 2012 Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends Newsletter
March 12, 2012

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Spring Work Weekend to be held May 5-6

Scouters, Alumni and Friends of Canyon Camp are asked to help at Canyon Camp on Saturday May 5-6. This will be the 37th consecutive year the Monroe Kiwanis Club has sponsored a spring workday at camp. The Monroe Kiwanis Club will provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for everyone attending the workday this year!

Volunteers are needed to work with area Kiwanians as we open camp and prepare for another summer of outdoor programming for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. We will be doing the usual spring maintenance including painting, plumbing and wood construction projects. Cutting downed trees, hauling brush & firewood are still a priority.

No matter what your skills, our primary work criterion is enthusiasm for service to the scouting program. Bring your favorite gloves and tools and we'll provide the projects. The Monroe Kiwanis Club will be providing meals throughout the day. Breakfast at 8:30am, lunch at 1pm, and dinner in the evening at 6pm.

Whether you can stay only a few hours or all day, you are welcome to join us for the fellowship & fresh spring air. Please call or email Ron Spielman with your questions and to let us know how many volunteers we can expect! Phone: 608-325-6490 email: spiel335@tds.net

Lyle Novinski honored with James West Award

Blackhawk Area Council recently announced that Lyle Novinski has been awarded a James E. West Fellowship Award. The West Award was first established in 1993 and was named for the man who served for over 30 years as the first BSA Chief Scout Executive. Just as West provided leadership and guidance at a critical time in the development of the BSA program, Novinski's visions for Canyon Camp have been perpetuated by numerous generations of staff members. Novinski's skills as a mentor while serving as Camp Director over 50 years ago still influence current leaders at Canyon Camp and in the communities where former staff members now reside. Camp Director Novinski mentored future Program Directors Chuck Kranz and Roy Prange. Denny Pratt's formative years of camp leadership were also under the guidance of Lyle Novinski. Lyle's Legacy of Leadership always demonstrated that actions speak louder than words. Much of the present look and feel of Canyon Camp, the high expectations of staff

members and the expected sharing of The Spirit of Canyon Camp can be traced to the Novinski Years. The individuals who established the award in Lyle's name offer Congratulations to Lyle - you are a most deserving recipient of the James E. West Fellowship Award.

Wednesday Visitor Night's schedule for 2012

Wednesday nights at Canyon Camp still attract visitors, parents, and friends into Camp to see the program in action, enjoy the Indian Dance Pageant, witness the Order of the Arrow tap out, visit the Trading Post or view the historical exhibits, and enjoy a summer night along the banks of Coon Creek. Bring a picnic meal (no alcohol) or purchase the infamous barbecue meal from the Dining Hall -- just like the one you had years ago, we guarantee it! This summer there are six Wednesday Visitor Night dates – we hope to see you at Canyon Camp on one of the dates below:

June 20 and 27; July 4,11,18 and 25

Alumni and Friends Web site up and running

A web site for the Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends was launched in January at <http://updates.canyoncampalumni.org/>. The site contains information and photos about Alumni and Friend Reunions, the Spirit Scholarship recipients and program, Historic documents like the deed to Canyon Camp, the Order of the Arrow, and tributes to our members. Please visit the web site often, and consider contributing any items you think would be valuable for everyone to see or read.

I Remember – a new book by Mike Coats

Mike Coat's authored a new memoir covering his career as a teacher. The book is available through Publish America. A description of Mike's book from Publish America is below.

"The author has spent 33 of the past 38 years of his life teaching school at the junior and senior high school level. Twenty-four of those years have been in private Christian schools and nine years have been in public schools. During that time he has been privileged to teach in Georgia, Wisconsin, and Illinois. He has also tutored students in various subjects and spent one season coaching diving. During that time he has had a number of memorable events. These are some of the events that have touched his heart. They have made him laugh, feel like he was actually making a difference in the lives of students, and enjoy what he was doing. I Remember is a book in which the author lists memories of some of his students in no particular order."

Wiley property transition continues

Jerry Paulson, Executive Director of Natural Land Institute (NLI) recently shared the news that the balance of the Wiley property has also been designated with Land & Water Reserve status. The Wiley property had been divided into three parcels. Blackhawk Area Council received from NLI a nearly 9 acre parcel along Townsend Road. This smaller parcel includes the barn, farmhouse and mobile home and therefore was NOT designated to have Land & Water

Reserve status. The Council also received from NLI over 34 acres that lie North of the Wiley buildings, along Broadway and directly across from the back entrance to camp. This second parcel does have Land & Water Reserve status and is the most usable portion of the Wiley lands for outpost camping and teaching outdoor skills including the study of the stars. The remaining Wiley lands (over 100 acres) along Broadway and including the Apple River portions were deeded by NLI to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) with the proviso that the lands also be designated as Land & Water Reserve; and that has now been accomplished working with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. All total, there are now more than 200 acres on the East & West sides of Broadway that have been designated as Land and Water Reserve. Over 85 vacant acres at the North end of Canyon Camp and over 134 acres of the former Wiley property. This summer will be the first summer since this process began in 2004 that cattle will NOT be pastured on the Wiley lands. The good news is that use by the scouts will be less restricted. However, the cattle helped keep much of the land trimmed and now mowing will be required to prevent encroachment of weed cover. Like most opportunities, the Wiley parcels also present challenges. When at camp this year, take time to stop over to see our additional acreage.