



Camp Fire

Light the fire within

April 2013

Inside this Issue

- Summer Camp
- New Club Welcome
- Camp Wathana Happenings
- Around Town
- On the Horizon
- Product Sale Report
- Love Your Mother Earth
- Moon Lore
- Bit of History
- Spotlight
- Club Corner
- Annual Meeting
- Event Schedule
- Board Meeting Schedule

Camp Fire
 Southeast Michigan
 Camp Wathana
 9750 Milford Road
 Holly, MI 48442
 248-382-8382
campfiresem.org/

Camp Fire Log

A Monthly Guide to What's Happening at Camp Fire SEM

Earth Day
April 22

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle



Arbor Day
April 26

Plant a Tree

April is for the earth and trees but May is for the birds!
 Bird Day is May 4th and International Migratory Bird Day is May 11th.
 See page five for great ideas for celebrating these special days.

Welcome, New Board Members

Six new members have accepted appointments to vacant positions on our Board of Directors and we're very glad to add their special talents and qualifications to our revitalization efforts. Welcome and WoHeLo to:

Kim Glidden, MSW Kim has extensive experience in programming for children and is employed by United Way of Southeast Michigan as manager with the agency's Early Learning Communities. Kim is also a fantastic grant writer and will be helping us with some applications.

Lee Padgett Lee is a veteran of the US Navy, lives in Detroit and specializes in social media marketing.

Nikki Rogers Nikki is a teacher in Farmington Hills, a yoga instructor and a social media specialist.

Lisa Rutledge Lisa is a health care consultant, a long time Camp Fire alumna and past Board President. Lisa's Camp Fire experience brings a wealth of background knowledge to the Board.

André Stringfellow André is a Finance Director with an MBA. He has accepted the Board of Directors Treasurer position. André is the focus of this month's "Spotlight" on page seven.

Mike Zakaria Mike is a Computer Science teacher at U of D High and one of the directors of our exciting new summer camp partner, Camp Valor.

According to Board President Jennifer Karteczka, "In the last three years our Board and organization have seen dramatic changes, including substantial changes in Board positions. Our new Board members bring a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and energy to Camp Fire, as well as an honest desire to stably grow our clubs, camp, and programs to levels not seen in our recent history. Change is *here* — we are headed into an amazing summer and upcoming year! Let's make sure to welcome our new members with open arms and minds, share our past, and work together to build our future. We can only do it together."

Summer Camp It Changes Kids' Lives!



Ask any adult who ever spent a summer at camp. Camp is huge! It impacts kids in ways that no other experience can. Camp forges lifetime friendships, connects kids with nature, and develops their independence, intellect, and creativity. The benefits of camp to kids are literally too many to count but if you're still not sold, read [this](#), [this](#) and the [information on our website](#).

Camp Valor at Camp Wathana offers 2-week sessions for boys and girls ages 9 to 16 in July and August. Save \$100 by registering before May 1st.

If you're convinced the kid in *your* life deserves the benefits of a summer camp experience, go [here](#) now and sign them up. If you don't have your own kids, do something crazy good and send someone else's kid to camp!

Camp and Council staff have been out recruiting campers. At left is our display booth at the Metro Parent Camp Fair held at the Michigan Science Center on Saturday, March 10th!



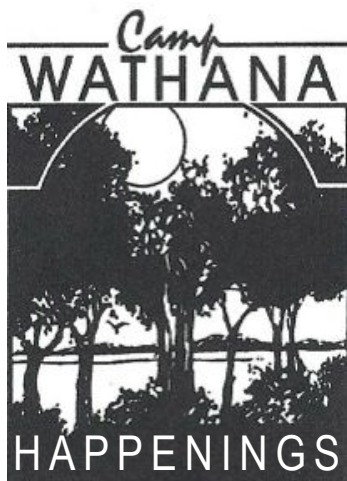
Clockwise from top: Camp Valor display, camp brochures; counselor Chad Linton explaining highlights of the program to a prospective camping family.

Those scrolls definitely set our camp brochure apart from our competitors! The Camp Valor wizards handed out over 400 of them to prospective campers along with tattoos, bookmarks and information about our Camp Fire clubs. One lucky attendee won the drawing for a foam sword!

Let the games begin!

Growth Spurt!

A big WoHeLo Welcome to our new **Camp Fire Starflight Club** in Toledo, Ohio! Leaders JoAnn Halbig, Evelyn Cherry and Doug Reinhart have recruited nine club members and hope to have 15 before their first official meeting on May 5th. All the leaders and several parents will be attending the Leader Training on May 18th and the club is already planning an outing to Camp Wathana. We're thrilled to have new members from "south of the border!"



Boy Scouts at Camp

The weekend of March 22nd brought local Boy Scouts to Camp Wathana. Boy Scout Troop 1707 from Royal Oak enjoyed a weekend of tent camping.

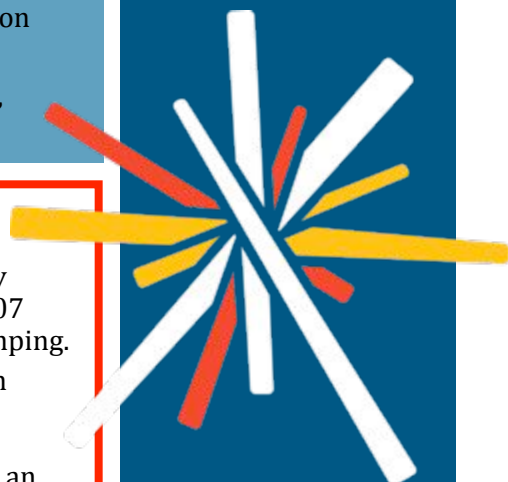
And Boy Scouts from Troop 179 of Farmington brought about 80 people to camp. They were practicing and getting ready for the Boy Scout Jamboree this coming summer. The "Jambo" is an adventure-filled BSA event that takes place every four years with scouts from all over the country. This group was particularly excited about visiting West Point as part of their trip.

Fixing Camp

In case you've been wondering what's happened to the Spring Mix 'n' Fix, we've come up with a new

and hopefully more efficient approach to tackling camp maintenance and repair projects. The plan is to identify specific projects that need to be done such as cleaning cabins, cutting wood, repairing roofs and painting biffies, then signing up groups who will come to camp for a day and complete one of these projects. College fraternities or sororities, Eagle Scouts, service organizations, Camp Fire clubs, or even a group of friends can choose to do a project that matches the skills of its members. Groups may choose to work on whichever weekday or weekend suits them.

To find a project that matches your group's skills, interests and timeframe, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, [Glenda Gordon](#). Mix 'n' Fix, your way!



Around Town

Local Activities for Families and Clubs



Who's your Tiger? Nothing says spring like baseball. Check the [Tiger's schedule](#) to find a game that fits into your spring. The website also lists [special events](#) like the Class Outside Series and other special days at Tiger games. Great fun for a club or family activity.



In addition to the Conservatory's permanent installations

there is always a seasonal display in the Showroom. The historic Aquarium is now open on Saturdays. And kids of all ages will love to climb onto the bridge of a lake vessel and take the ship's wheel at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. The newly renovated Dossin is scheduled to reopen on May 18th.

On the Horizon

April

Annual Art Competition 2013—Printmaking

The Art Competition is upon us!

If you need an Entry Form, please contact [Linda](#).

Entry forms must be postmarked by April 8th! Send one for each art work to be submitted. Also include a master list of all entrants' names. Send the forms to:

Linda Eastman, Art Competition 2013, 7744 SE Sugar Sand Circle, Hobe Sound FL 33455, or scan and send to [Linda](#).

Art works are due to Peggy by April 19th. Make sure each art work is clearly labeled on the back with artist's name, club name and leader's name. Contact [Peggy](#) to arrange to deliver your club's art work or it may be mailed to:

Peggy Kogstrom, Art Competition 2013, 12425 Nine Mile Rd., South Lyon, MI 48178

Art Competition 2013—Printmaking will be held in the Sears corridor at Briarwood Mall on April 27th from 10 am to 4 pm.; judging at 2. This information will also be posted on the [website events page](#).

A Round Tuit Weekend

I'll do that when I get around to it. We've all said that more than once! Well here's your "Round Tuit." Bring your project along to an adults only weekend at Camp Wathana and work on it to your heart's content. Or DON'T bring a project and simply relax and enjoy the camp setting and outdoor activities!

Throw your poodle skirt or white bucks into your pack, too, if you like, for some Saturday night fun. Burgers, fries and milkshakes are on the menu and we'll snap our fingers, swing, stroll, and twist to some cool 50s beats.

The dates are April 19-21. \$95 for the whole weekend, including meals! Space is limited! Contact [Peggy](#) for registration forms. Make your reservation by April 12th!

May

Leader Training

Training for the 2013-14 program year will take place on May 18th from 9 to 3 at Camp. Training is a must for experienced or new leaders and will include: general policy and procedure training, individual program level training for Little Stars, Starflight, Adventure, and Discovery programs, and a 2014 Art Competition workshop in Photography. Please bring a camera with manual for this workshop. Lunch will be provided.

Camp Valor Events

Kids, bring your parents to Camp Valor Open House on May 18! Meet the counselors, find out how much fun you'll have spending two whole weeks at camp! Camp Valor is also having an Adult Camping Weekend May 31–Jun 2. Save these dates and stay tuned for more information.

June

Fly-Up Weekend

This is a Council Weekend at Camp during which youth receive awards and recognition for their year's activities and those advancing to new program levels will Fly-Up to the next level. June 7–9. The Fly-Up ceremony and Pinewood Derby will be held on Saturday, the 8th. Plan to join us for this exciting event!



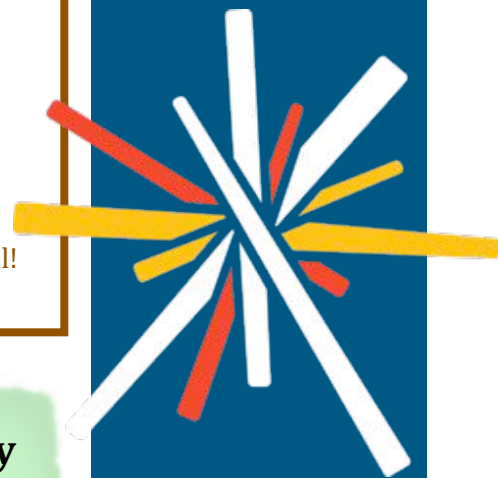
Candy Sale 2013 —A Sweet Success!

With all the numbers tallied it appears that Camp Fire SEM has had a very successful Annual Fundraiser. **Thanks go out to all the club leaders and youth members** for working so hard for our council! Continuing to provide award winning youth programs and leader support, maintaining our charter affiliation, as well as operating our camp takes a great deal of capital and this fundraiser is an important way for youth members to make a difference in that effort.

And now for the winners! The **Swans** made a repeat performance selling the most candy for the fourth year in a row! Their reward is a free night at Camp Wathana. *Congratulations, Swans!*

Adam from the Eberwhites is the individual youth member who sold the most candy. So, Adam, *Congratulations on your new bicycle!* It will be presented to you at the Council Fly-Up Weekend in June. In addition, all product sale participants who sold 15 or more items will receive Camp Fire Fundraiser emblems at the Fly-Up ceremonial.

And **Camp Fire**, of course, in all its awesomeness, is the biggest winner of all!



Earth Day, Arbor Day and Bird Day



Many experts say kids need “More Green and Less Screen.” These resources and event listings offer kids and grownups interesting and fun opportunities to learn more about “green living” and the connections that bind us to other living things and to earth’s resources.

- [Events](#) in Oakland County
- [Events](#) in Southeast Michigan
- Earth Friendly [Teaching Resources](#)
- [20 Ways to Conserve Birds](#)
- [Leading a Bird Walk](#)
- [Paint a Bird Mural](#)
- [Make a Bird Nest of Recyclables](#)

This last one looks like so much fun! Little kids could just do it. Bigger kids could actually form teams, do some research and make nests to scale for various bird species. For example one team could make a condor nest, another a robin’s nest, and a third, an oriole’s hanging pendant nest! Hey, if anyone does this, please invite [Linda](#) to join you!



Spring Moon

There seem to be as many names for April's moon as there are tribes and cultures. However there is one overarching theme for all of them—**Spring!**

The Great Lakes Chippewa called it the Broken Snowshoe Moon. Were their shoes worn out from a long winter?

To Arapahos it was the Ice Breaking in the River Moon.

In the spring, amphibians emerge from a thawing earth in the northern plains where the Assiniboine people named April's moon the Frog Moon.

The Farmer's Almanac reflects the traditions of many native peoples in calling it the Full Pink Moon for the flowers of the creeping phlox that carpet the ground this month.

Another sign of spring is referenced in the Haida name, the Migratory Geese Moon and the Cheyenne name, When the Geese Lay Eggs Moon.

Look for the full Spring Moon on April 25, 2013

A Bit of History

Camp Fire opens doors of opportunity to young children in 1913

It is almost impossible to imagine from our place in the 21st century what life was like for many children a hundred years ago. Those who were not born to privilege often became breadwinners even as they began formal schooling—or instead of it—working to help their families survive. By 1910, an estimated 2 million children under the age of 15 were employed in the United States. In 1908, Lewis Wickes Hine, teacher, sociologist, photographer and contemporary of Camp Fire founders Dr. Luther and Charlotte Gulick, embarked on a decade-long project for the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC). He used his camera to document child workers for the NCLC which advocated for a legal end to harsh child labor practices. The [collection](#) of over 5000 photos, now housed in the Library of Congress, revealed to the public the plight of children as young as four years old working for low wages in extreme conditions in American markets, factories, sweatshops, mills and mines.



Tenement homework was common in New York and other eastern states. This picture shows children aged 5 to 10 in a family group at home making artificial flowers for 8 cents per gross. Lewis Hine photo, Library of Congress.



Children working as "mold boys" at the Seneca Glass Works, Morgantown, WV in 1908. The children sat cramped in their chairs for nine hours a day with a one hour lunch break. Lewis Hine photo, Library of Congress.

Perhaps due in part to the work of Hine and the NCLC as well as the growing scouting movement, the Gulicks recognized that younger girls would benefit from a Camp Fire program as much as the older girls for whom they first created the organization. So in 1913 the Blue Bird program was introduced for elementary aged girls, offering exploration of ideas and creative play built around family and community. Our youngest members were known as Blue Birds for many years. When Camp Fire turned co-ed in 1975, the boys became Blue Jays. In 1983, a club program for kindergartners called Sparks was introduced. In 1989, these two age groups merged into Starflight, a new program level for kindergarten, first and second graders. The program of Little Stars for pre-schoolers was added in 2005. But from Camp Fire's beginnings, it has sought to provide young children with opportunities to improve their lives, not through tedious labor, but through service, joyful work, health and love.

Spotlight

Meet Camp Fire SEM VIPs in this continuing series.



André Stringfellow is Treasurer of the Camp Fire Southeast Michigan Board of Directors.

This month's Spotlight focuses on André Stringfellow, a new member of the Camp Fire SEM Board of Directors serving as Board Treasurer.

André was raised on Detroit's west side by a hard-working, educated single mom. He attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Martin Luther King Jr. High School in 1992. He and his three brothers were taught the value of hard work and education through their mother's example.

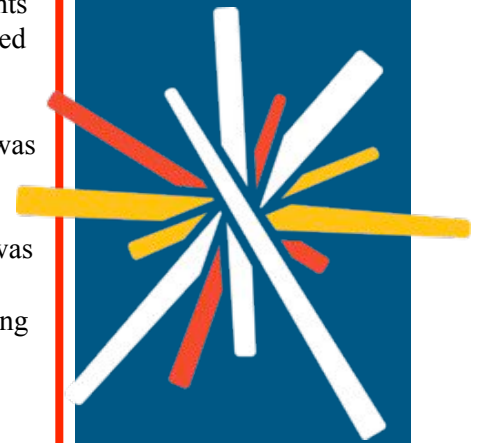
After completing his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, he began his accounting career as an accounts payable clerk. In 2005 he earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and was promoted to the position of accountant. A post-graduate

certificate in accounting led to his advancement to Budget Analyst. In 2010 André was promoted to Director of Finance for Wayne County's Department of Health and Human Services, taking charge of the department's \$150 million budget, and realizing his goal of becoming an executive.

André has always believed in serving his community. Through his work he became involved with such programs and events as Senior Meals on Wheels, the Back to School Fun fest, and Winter Blast, to name a few. He adheres to the philosophy that "to whom much is given, much is required." As a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., this philosophy is reinforced and echoed in his personal motto: *The higher the position, the more the responsibility, the greater the duty to serve others.*

"I am honored to have been asked to serve on the Board of Directors," says André, "and am thankful for the opportunity to help Camp Fire make a difference to children and families in Southeast Michigan."

André is married with three children—a fourteen-year-old son and two daughters, twelve and four. He is a runner who finished his first marathon in October 2012 and is planning to run his second this coming October. He welcomes anyone who's willing to come with him for a weekend run!



Club Corner

The Cheetahs learned about the *Reuse* part of *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* by making beads out of old magazines and stringing them into beautiful necklaces.

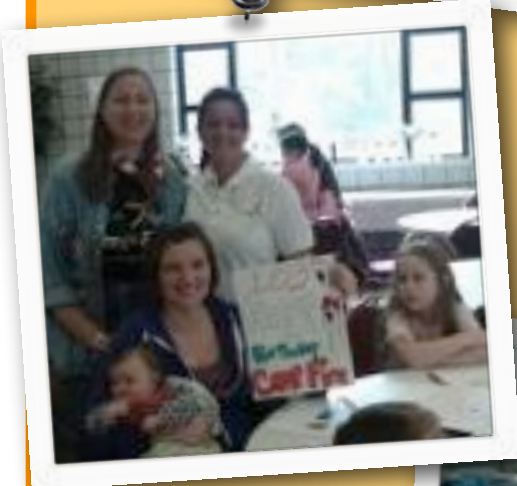
Then they made candy necklaces for a sweet treat!

How much fun was that?!



Celebrate Camp Fire!

The Swans celebrated Camp Fire's 103rd birthday with a party! They made posters, collected money for the Kempthorn Friendship Fund, sang Camp Fire songs, played Lemmi Sticks and brought new faces to the celebration. This was a happy day had by all!





Camp Fire SEM Events

2013 Art Competition

Apr 8 Entry forms due
Apr 19 Art works due
Apr 27 Event at
Briarwood Mall

Apr 19-21, 2013
"A Round Tuit"
Adult Weekend

May 11, 2013 Noon
Annual Meeting and
Pot Luck Lunch

May 18, 2013
Leader Training

May 18, 2013
Camp Valor
Open House

May 31-Jun 2
Camp Valor
Adult Weekend

Jun 7-9, 2013
Fly-Up Weekend

Jun 8, 2013
Pinewood Derby

Summer Camp

Session I

Jul 14-27

Session II

Jul 28- Aug 10

Blue Jeans & BBQ

Sep 28, 2013

* All events take place at
Camp Wathana unless
otherwise noted.

Annual Meeting

All members of the
Camp Fire Southeast Michigan
Council are invited and
encouraged to attend the
Annual Meeting and pot luck
lunch on May 11th at 12 Noon
at Camp Wathana.

Agenda Items Include

- Election of Officers
- Review of Year 2012
- Vision for 2013 and 2014
- Vote on official Council name change
- Vote on proposed bylaw changes
(Request a copy by [email](#) or call
248.382.8382)

2013 Board Meeting Schedule

The Camp Fire SEM Board meetings are open to all. They are held every other month on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Camp.

Saturday, May 11th—Pot luck lunch and Annual Meeting to follow

Saturday, July 13th

Saturday, September 14th

Saturday, November 9th