



Camp Fire

Light the fire within

March 2013

Inside this Issue

- Peplemovers
- Camp Wathana Happenings
- Cardboard Classic
- Moon Lore
- On the Horizon
- Spotlight
- Camp Fire Kitchen
- Around Town
- Club Corner
- Bit of History
- Event Calendar
- Board Meeting Schedule

Camp Fire Log

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

Wathana Summer Camp Program Returns!



Camp Fire Southeast Michigan enthusiastically announces the longed-for return of **Summer Resident Camp** to our beloved Camp Wathana in 2013!

A truly astounding effort by CEO Liz Longley and the Board of Directors resulted in a partnership with the adventure camp group, [Camp Valor](#), to run our new summer resident camp program. The directors of Camp Valor are highly qualified veterans of summer adventure camps around the country. With a collective background in game theory, economics, and recreation practices, they have developed a wonderful program that incorporates traditional camp

activities with exciting adventure games and themed events that are guaranteed to thrill teens and preteens and provide them with lifetime memories.

Liz and her amazing network of helpers put in some incredible hours in order to make this happen. From developing a game plan, to conducting extensive interviews, completely revamping our old website, and building a marketing campaign to assure the camp's success, everyone connected to this effort did a remarkable job.

We're now accepting registrations for kids aged 9 to 16 for the two-week sessions in July and August! Find out more about our summer camp offering [online](#), by [sending](#) for a camp brochure or plan to visit our booth at the Metro Parent Camp Fair, March 10th from noon to 3:30 at the Michigan Science Center (formerly the Detroit Science Center) in the Cultural Center.

Council Launches New Website

Connects to 'Peplemovers' intranet

Camp Fire Southeast Michigan launched its fabulous new website, www.campfiresem.org, in February to rave reviews! If you haven't seen it yet, now's the time! You can use the website to find important information about our mission of serving youth and families, our programs, camp, staff, board, committees, and events among other things. There are links to contact the office if you have questions, need support, or want to start a club, volunteer or donate. Past issues of *The Camp Fire Log* are archived there. And, most importantly right now, there is information about our new summer camp program, Camp Valor, along with an easy to use, online registration form.

In addition to our new website, we're initiating other social media connections. The council has joined Peplemovers.com, a regional network "for people and organizations to work together to make a better world."



Continued on p. 2

Happy Birthday
to Us!



Camp Fire

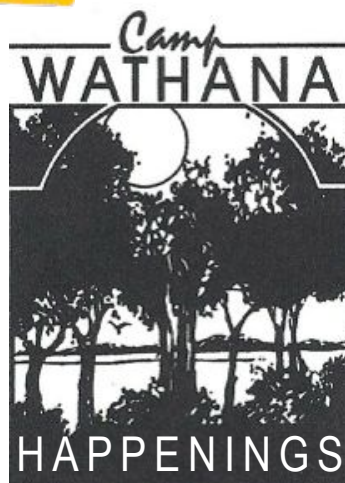
Southeast Michigan
Camp Wathana
9750 Milford Road
Holly, MI 48442
248-382-8382

Continued from p. 1

Peplemovers will be a powerful tool for us to “connect, communicate, and collaborate” with each other and with other southeast Michigan organizations, businesses, and community leaders.

“I think the great thing about Peplemovers,” says Liz Longley, “is that it can act as our ‘intranet’ for internal communication. It also gets over 30,000 hits per month with an average stay of 20 minutes. It is a southeast Michigan connector.”

This means that each time we post events, initiatives, programs, and needs, our own members as well as other non-profits, businesses, government agencies, volunteers, movers and shakers will be able to access what we’re doing, share ideas and solutions, and join us in our mission. This is a place to become informed and connected in ways that move our council forward.



Reports are in that the **owl walk and pot luck dinner** organized by [Headwaters Trails](#) in January was a wonderful event. They were expecting around 50 people but so many came they had to set up three extra tables to accommodate everyone!

Attending were people from NOHLC (our partners in the land conservancy), two equestrian groups, and people involved with preserving the Shiawassee River. The Headwaters Trails folks cooked hamburgers outside on the grill and people brought lots of food.

There were several speakers including our own Sue Jensen, who gave a talk about Camp Fire, and Sue Julian from NOHLC who spoke about the Camp Wathana conservancy with slides showing our original and current property boundaries and also views of many

surrounding properties who's owners are considering putting their land into conservancies, too. Among these is the large tract across Milford road that encompasses West Wind Lake and is adjacent to Rose Oaks County Park.

Following Sue, Jon Noyes of Oakland County Parks explained how they are installing multi-use boardwalks at Rose Oaks to make the area accessible to hikers, horses and cyclists. There was a good discussion on the kinds of trails that serve equestrian needs and the issues of horses sharing trails with walkers, strollers and bicycles. Since horses aren't quite sure what strollers or bikes are but are reassured at the sound of a human voice, it was suggested that people approaching a horse say something, such as, "Hi, horse" in order to put the animals at ease.

Finally, the group went on the owl walk with Chuck Julian. It was a cold clear night, with little wind and the light of a full moon reflecting on the snow. No flashlights were needed moving along the trail up to Sequoia, then down to the waterfront. An owl was heard across the lake, but none were seen. When Chuck's recorded owl calls gave out, the walk was over. But many more nature lovers learned about Camp Fire and Camp Wathana and were impressed with our organization and our commitment to conserving and sharing our “beautiful place.”

A big shout out to a new Corktown incubator venture, the Pony Ride! Camp Wathana recently received a generous gift from the Pony Ride. They had a dozen tents and 24 sleeping bags left over from a promotional urban campout and donated them to Camp Fire SEM. The tents and sleeping bags will come in handy during Wathana's camping season. Thanks to Phil Cooley and the Pony Ride for their generosity!

Cardboard Classic 2013



Camp Fire Snow Bunnies, Snow Monkeys and Polar Bears had lots of fun racing their cardboard vehicles at the 4th annual Camp Wathana Cardboard Classic on February 2nd. Kids and their "assistants" designed and built their sleds using only cardboard, duct tape, paint and a healthy serving of imagination. Some racers constructed their sleds at home and others built them at camp on race day. The craft table was open for making Valentines for Veterans or make 'n' takes. Perfect winter weather prevailed and there was just enough snow to sled down the steep road to Sequoia... with a little push from some friends.

After the design judging and lunch, away they went!

The Snow Monkey race was very close with contenders finishing just 1/200th of a second apart.

After the race explorers fanned out and looked for other sledding hills around camp and played in the snow.



Design Awards Snow Bunnies—1st Bridget’s Sparkle Rainboat & Firecrackers (Cheetahs); 2nd Sammy’s Chugga Chugga (Cheetahs). Snow Monkeys—1st Erin’s Invisible Jet (Cheetahs); 2nd Randall’s Kooky Kanoe (Cheetahs); 3rd Hannah’s Dalmation Dog (Aitana Chickagami). Polar Bears—1st Frank’s Cardboard Contraption (Swans).

Race Winners Snow Bunnies—Sammy (Cheetahs); Snow Monkeys—Hannah (Nana’s Kids); Polar Bears—Frank (Swans).

Best Destruction on the Hill Annabelle’s Pod Racer (Cheetahs)



Full Worm Moon

The Full Worm Moon was given its name by the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior.

At the time of this spring Moon, the ground begins to soften and earthworm casts reappear, inviting the return of robins. This is also known as the Sap Moon, as it marks the time when maple sap begins to flow and the annual tapping of maple trees begins. The more northern tribes knew this Moon as the Full Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the Full Crust Moon, because the snow cover becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. Sioux tribes named it the Moon when Eyes are Sore from Bright Snow. To the settlers, it was known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full Moon of winter.

Look for the full Full Worm Moon on March 27th



On the Horizon

March—Keep an eye out for the **Absolutely Incredible Kid Day** (AIKD) stationary Peggy will be sending out soon. You'll be able to download and print to send the incredible kids in your life a special letter on March 21st.

Camp Fire's 103rd Birthday is this month! What are you doing to celebrate? Send in your party photos for the next *Log*!

April— **Art Competition** dates can be found in the Event Schedule on p. 8. If you've lost your forms, don't despair. Peggy will be sending them out again.

A Round Tuit Weekend (formerly Adult Crafting Weekend) now includes outdoor activities for non-crafty types. Look for the flyer and join us for a weekend of doing what you want!

May—18th **Leader Training** in the spring as requested so that leaders will have time to plan over the summer!

Spotlight

Meet Camp Fire SEM VIPs in this continuing series.

If anyone ever needed proof of the effect of childhood experiences on attitudes and preferences in adulthood, they need look no further than Pete Esterline. Pete is a longstanding volunteer at Camp Wathana, appointed Chair of the



Campground Committee, and hero to all who love our camp.

Camp Wathana was Pete's backyard playground growing up. His mom was director of the horseback riding unit at summer camp and their family lived at camp all summer. Pete and his twin are remembered fondly by Board Secretary and former Counselor Sue Edwards-Haesler as "the cutest little 7-year-olds running and playing all over camp" while their mom was busy taking care of campers and horses. As a teenager, Pete gained the status of "kitchen boy" scrubbing the cook's pots and pans during summer resident camp and when that was done, he helped the camp caretaker with any other

work that needed doing. Those adventures prepared Pete for a counselor's job later on with the YMCA.

Pete was a member of the Equestrian Team at Michigan State University and graduated from MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, specializing in—what else?—equine medicine!

Now Pete is a large animal veterinarian in Fowlerville where he lives with his wife, Joan, and daughter, Kate. That's close enough for him to find his way back to his childhood playground on a regular basis to continue fixing all the myriad old things that need attention there. Cabin repairs and other construction projects are his forte and we can thank him for all the roofs that no longer leak, dry feet as we cross the swamp on the boardwalk, a safer archery range, and countless other improvements to the camp landscape. We're so lucky you're still with us, Pete! Maybe one of these days you'll take some time off to go fishing!

The Camp Fire



KITCHEN

Enjoy the adventure of “dining out” Camp Fire style by making campfire cooking a part of your program! The delicious recipes and tips for campfire cooking showcased in our new periodic feature have been developed and collected by members over the years. Do you have a favorite camp recipe or tip to share? Please send it in for publication!

“What is it about cooking outdoors that makes ordinary food taste extraordinary?”

Orange Cup Gingerbread

This delicious dessert can be made in a reflector oven or in aluminum packets. Cut oranges in half and scoop the fruit into a bowl for next day’s breakfast. Prepare boxed gingerbread mix and fill the empty orange cups half full with batter. Place cups on a baking sheet in a reflector oven for 15-20 minutes,

until toothpick testing indicates they are done. Or place cups on a double layer of foil, bring the four corners together and twist to close. Carefully, to avoid tipping and spilling the batter, place wrapped cups among hot coals. Start toothpick testing at 10 min. Serve with a spoonful of lemon pie filling or Cool Whip.

Easy, Cheap Reflector Oven

Use duct tape to hinge the long sides of two baking sheets together. Open the sheets flat and wrap all the way around in two layers of foil, shiny side out. Find two sticks the right length to prop the sheets open to a 45° angle. Wrap the sticks in foil. Use foil to fashion triangular sides for the oven and crimp them to the foil covered sheets and sticks. Find four rocks on which to rest the four corners of the oven and place them near the hot coals. Move some hot coals between the rocks. Place the oven on the rocks with the open side facing the coals. Control temperature by moving coals closer to or farther away from the oven. Always watch your food closely!

Around Town

Local Activities for Families and Clubs



Department of Natural Resources

March 3-8 is National Invasive Species Awareness Week and a good time to learn more about the issues surrounding invasive species in our region. Read up on the subject at [Michigan Nature Association](#) and plan how you can help.

Our friend and Camp Fire alumna Laurel Malvitz-Draper of the Michigan State Park Stewardship Unit is gearing up for April’s [garlic mustard](#) pulling season in local state parks and recreation areas. Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that is crowding out beautiful native wildflowers all over the mitten. Pulling garlic mustard isn’t difficult but there’s a LOT of it to pull! If your club would like to help, check [Laurel’s calendar](#) for workdays and times in your local park. She’ll help kids and adults learn to spot it and pull it! Maybe make a salad!



Happy Birthday to Us!

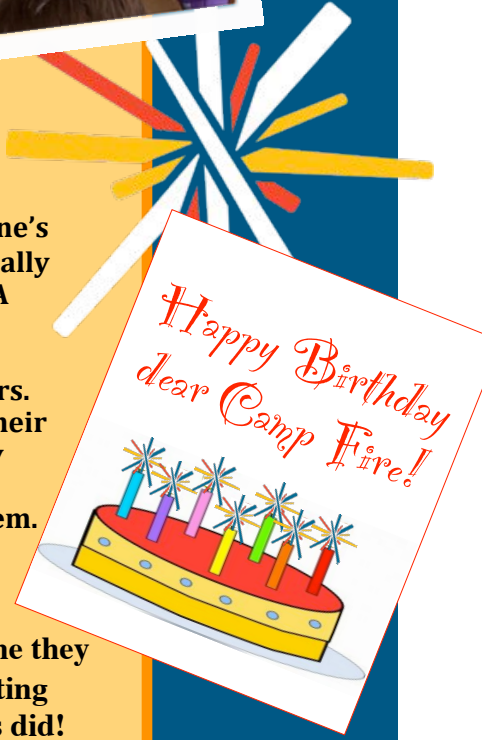


Club Corner

The Cheetahs made over 60 Valentines for Veterans and assembled 50 individual sets of travel sized toiletries, with a personal note in each bag to present to military veterans at the VA hospital! They also collected lots of other items to take to the VA, like books, socks, movies, laundry detergent, and hair brushes. The generosity of these kids and their families is just amazing!



On the Saturday after Valentine's Day the club members personally delivered everything to the VA hospital in Detroit. Boxes of toiletries were delivered to nursing stations on three floors. The veterans really enjoyed their visit and the nurses were very appreciative of the valentine candy the kids brought for them.



Here is the group at the VA hospital. As soon as the leaders arrived home they had an email from the VA volunteer coordinator thanking them for visiting with the patients. She hoped the kids enjoyed it as much as the veterans did!

WoHeLo to the entire Cheetahs Club and their leaders for committing to Camp Fire's motto, "Give Service!"



Camp Fire
SEM Events

Mar 2013
Camp Fire's
103rd Birthday Month
Celebrate Camp Fire
Project

Mar 21, 2013
Absolutely
Incredible Kid Day

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" **NEW!**
Adult Weekend
Camp Wathana

May 18, 2013 **NEW!**
Leader Training

Jun 7—9, 2013
Fly-Up Weekend
Camp Wathana

Jun 8, 2013
Pinewood Derby
Camp Wathana

Summer Camp **NEW!**
Session I
Jul 14-27
Session II
Jul 28- Aug 10

Blue Jeans & BBQ
Sep 28, 2013
Camp Wathana

A Bit of History

Stories of Watona Lodge

Mrs. Harry Hooks was chairman of the Camp Committee from its inception in 1925 until she resigned in 1947. In 1936, the same year that a new lodge was built, Mrs Hooks donated 60 acres of land to Camp Wathana. Her Camp Fire ceremonial name, *Watona*—meaning "one who has served from the beginning"—was selected as the name for the lodge as a tribute to her dedication to Camp Wathana and the Camp Fire Organization.

On a sad day in 1939, Watona Lodge burned to the ground. Much fundraising took place and a new building was erected on the old foundation. Helen Trueman Stobbe was a Camp Fire Girl at that time.

She wrote for the *Centennial Memory Book*, "While the new

[lodge] was built, each group was asked to have one girl make a clay tile representing the name of the group. For some reason, I was the lucky one from our group and was driven by Mrs. Robertson to Pewabic Pottery on Jefferson with my design. I discovered that my design was a little too

detailed after I saw the final glazed product. A student at the pottery did the glazing and firing. Finally all the tiles were installed around the lodge fireplace."

Alumna Carol Miller, a camper and counselor in the 1940s, wrote this for our centennial book:

"One summer, I was taking a craft class in woodcarving. An opportunity was given, to those who volunteered, to carve a plaque representing our birthday month. The best plaques were to go around the lodge door. My birthday month was March. The last I

checked was 25 years ago, and my March plaque was still over the door."

As of this writing Helen's tile and Carol's plaque are still securely in place, markers in the memories of a new generation of Camp Fire kids.



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, March 9th

Saturday, May 11th

Saturday, July 13th

Saturday, September 14th

Saturday, November 9th

