

The BRIDGE

Blue Water Council, BSA

December 2009 - January 2010

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Editor: Judy McCarthy



From Our Scout Executive

As we head into the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America, there are going to be changes in the program. The BSA has made a commitment to making sure that the Boy Scouts stay relevant and innovative in the future and are working hard to ensure that we will be around for another 100 years. One example of the changes is in the Cub Scout program.

At the Top Hands meeting in Detroit, BSA representatives announced changes in the delivery method for Cub Scouts for the program year 2010-2011. By providing a planned path to advancement, this delivery method, the result of pilot testing since 2005, shows promise in the following areas:

- Increased youth retention (+20% in the pilot)
- Improved den leader confidence and satisfaction

The details including the pilot results, benefits and new resources, and frequently asked questions are available at the www.scouting.org/cubscouts2010. This site will be used over the next year to update communication on this program as details unfold.

The 100th Anniversary of Scouting is Monday, February 8, 2010. The Scout Anniversary Week is February 7-13, 2010. Be sure to mark this special day and week with your Scouts.

Happy Holidays,

Paul W. Schwartz
Scout Executive



Centennial Recruiter Patches Still Available

Scouts can earn this new Centennial Recruiter patch by recruiting a new boy into their pack or troop this year. Have your Scouts tell all their friends about the fun and adventure of Scouting. This is a special patch which will only be available for a short time.



Popcorn Sales Results for 2009

Zachary Ecarus of Pack 257 in the 3-Rivers District sold \$3,542 of popcorn to become the highest overall salesman during the 2009 Blue Water Council Popcorn Sale. Leading the way for the Black River Basin District was Ben Bovenschen from Pack 327 with \$3,041 in sales. Great job!! For their efforts, each will receive a Wii Game or a \$200 gift card from Pecatonica Popcorn and a \$150 gift card from the Blue Water Council. Also earning the Wii are Jonathan O'Grady of Pack 201 who sold \$2,582 and Travis Trigger of Pack 351 who sold \$2,540. There were 12 Scouts who sold over \$1,000. Fifty Scouts turned in filled up order forms for prizes at the Scout Service Center. Congratulations to all our top sellers!



Pack 351 from Deckerville was the top producing unit with \$11,130 in sales while Pack 333 of Sandusky sold \$10,635 and Pack 201 of Marysville sold \$9,924.

Pack 245 of Memphis was the top magazine seller with \$840, followed by Pack 351 with \$720 and Pack 333 with \$620.

The final tally showed \$243,142 in popcorn sales and \$14,720 in magazine sales for a total of \$257,862. The poor economy was certainly a factor as last year's total sales were \$297,251.



The winning "Unit Kick-Off Videos" will be announced at the December 9 roundtable at the Scout Service Center. Both Pack and Troops will receive checks for their winning videos: First prize is \$150, Second prize is \$100 and Third prize is \$50! Be sure to attend the roundtables beginning at 7 pm to see who wins. Come early as the

Scout Shop will be open until 7 pm that night.



Thanks to all participating units and Scouts for your efforts!

A Year of Celebration - A Century of Making a Difference Earn Special 100th Anniversary Awards

A Year of Celebration - A Century of Making a Difference is an awards program developed specially for the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. There are five awards, each based on one of the five core values of the Boy Scouts of America: Leadership, Achievement, Community Service, Character and Outdoors. The award is a uniquely designed patch of the 100th Anniversary emblem with slots to hold special award markers for each pillar of the program. Individuals will be able to display all earned awards at the same time on their uniforms by attaching award markers to the patch. Each award has different requirements depending upon age. There are five requirements for each age group for each award. This program will provide every Scout, leader and alumnus a fun and meaningful way to participate in the 100th Anniversary. Go to www.scouting.org/100years for more information on this and many more 100th Anniversary programs. The requirements are on our website www.bwcbbsa.org.





Cub Scout News

Cub Scare Night Fun!

A rainy, chilly October night could not keep Cub Scouts and their families away from Silver Trails for the 7th annual "Cub Scare Night." Those who dared enter the "mortuary" were greeted by creepy people in caskets with one who looked a great deal like Mr. Mac! A trek down the spooky steps led the crowd to the haunted maze where goblins, goons and weirdoes made the narrow passage difficult, loud and scary. Hayrides through the haunted forest met with further spooky activity, as well as a headless horseman. For the survivors, hot cider, hot cocoa, fresh donuts and games were welcome. A big thanks to Crew 296, the Biskner family and all the volunteers who made the event a great time. A very special thanks to Lucy Anderson, the headless horseman!



Thank You Mom & Me Staff

Thank you to all the Pharaohs who came to the great land of Egypt! What a success you made this event even with all the rain on Friday - you stuck it out!

Thank you also to all the staff who gave their weekend to make this huge event happen. Many volunteers are needed and it couldn't go on without them. A special thank you to the Knuth family for cutting out 600 plus wooden canoes and for making those eight awesome chariots! What fun it was to watch the canoe and chariot races. Thank you very much to Darla Wierszewski and kitchen staff for the warm awesome food.

Watching the excited faces of all those Cub Scouts makes the year-long planning worthwhile! Thank you again to all the participants and staff for such a great event!

Cyndi Jagodzinski & Laura Knuth, Mom & Me Chairpersons *(A very special thank you to Laura Knuth, my partner and sidekick for all your hard work and planning. I couldn't have done it without you! Cyndi)*



Car Trophies Available Free

The council has received several boxes of old car trophies. If your pack would like to use them for their Pinewood Derby races, come to the Scout Service Center and pick out what you would like.



It's a Winter Expedition at Cub Winter Fun Day!

Have you ever gone on an expedition? Have you ever made your very own snowshoes? Come to the Winter Expedition to find out how and then hike the trails on the great search! You will learn how to survive by tying knots, building fires, doing first aid, and even building a stretcher to save your fellow hikers!



Mark your calendars for **February 6, 2010, 10 am - 3:30 pm** and get your registrations in by January 22 for the early bird registration! Late registrations will be accepted until January 29, 2010.

Cost: \$6 per person, early registration by January 22
\$8 per person, late registration January 23-29

The fee includes all activities, a patch and lunch. The activities will be indoors and out so dress for the weather! If there is snow, sledding will be available from 3:30-4:30 pm. Bring your own sleds. At least one parent or leader (preferably two) must accompany each five Scouts. Flyers will be emailed to leaders and available on our website at www.bwcbasa.org. If you have any questions, contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org or 810-982-9529.



Cub Scout Pack 296

Completes Annual Food Drive

Pack 296 of Marine City recently completed it's annual food drive. After distributing grocery bags to neighborhood houses on November 7, the Scouts picked up the bags on November 14 and collected over 300 food bags. The food was delivered to the Marine City Interfaith Food Pantry. The food pantry was very grateful to the Scouts for their efforts. Cubmaster Greg Black said the Scouts had an opportunity to experience community service with this project.

Packs Qualify for the National Summertime Pack Award

Five packs have turned in their applications for the National Summertime Pack Award. To qualify for this award, packs must have an activity in June, July and August. Packs can then get a certificate and award streamer for the pack flag. Cubs that attend all three activities can earn the National Summertime Award pin.

Congratulations go to:

- Pack 132 of Yale
- Pack 200 of Capac
- Pack 222 of Algonac
- Pack 245 of Memphis
- Pack 331 of Peck





oy Scout News

Order of the Arrow News

The OA winter banquet is rapidly approaching and is an event that all Arrowmen, family and guests should plan on attending. The event will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 828 Lapeer Road in Port Huron on **January 9, 2010**. Registration and fellowship will begin at 6 pm with dinner served at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$12.00 per person. The guest speaker is Brad Li-chota. Meet all new members, as well as hear the wisdom of the Supreme Keeper of the Fire. Special presentations will also be made. Information will be sent out after Thanksgiving. Please join us for Brotherhood and the Sprit of Scouting. For more information, call John Houser at the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529.



Announcing New Scuba Diving Merit Badge

Start with a dash of swimming skills (the swimming merit badge), add equal measures of aquatics first aid, safety, conservation and adventure, and you have the Scuba Diving Merit Badge. The merit badge book will be available soon. We are looking for merit badge counselors for this badge. For a brief outline of the new merit badge, check out our website at www.bwcsa.org under Boy Scouting.



There will be four more new merit badges released in the next 12 months: Inventing, Geocaching, Scouting Heritage and Robotics.

Klondike South at Algonac State Park

The tradition lives on!! Algonac State Park will once again be home to the 2010 Klondike South. Gather your troop, invite some Webelos, and make plans for the January 30 event. The cost is \$13 per Scout/Adult and \$5 for 2nd year Webelos. Pre-registration must be received by 5 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2010. Late registrations and walk-ins will be \$16 per Scout/Adult.



What a great opportunity to participate in cold weather camping, practice cold weather skills and compete for top sled. A flyer will be mailed after Thanksgiving. Questions or volunteers can contact Dan Steinmetz at 810-765-9765.

Cub Scout & Boy Scout Roundtables

The December roundtables will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at the Scout Service Center at 7 pm. Dave Zarling will be discussing first aid for Mackinac with the Boy Scout leaders. There will also be time to discuss "on-line re-chartering", as well as announcing the winners of the Top Popcorn Kickoff Video Awards. Come join the group in fun, exchange of ideas and friendship. Note the Scout Shop will be open until 7 pm this night.

Klondike North 2010 - Winter Games

Klondike North is on again. Mark your calendar for February 19-21, 2010. The schedule for this year will include sled building Friday night and Saturday morning (just like last year). Polar Bear and shelter building will begin Friday night as well. Some of the new events this year will include bridge building, snow shoe building and racing, bow and arrow competition, bobsled run, cross country ski races, and a sled dog race, as well as others. Are you up for the challenge? Check out the article in the November/December 2009 Scouting magazine about last year's event and see what a success it was! (Check out www.scoutingmagazine.org and look under current issue "Klondike Rush")

There will be a patrol auction at the end of the day, as well as the BURNING of the SLEDS Saturday at 4:30 pm. Start practicing your lashing and sled building skills.



What: Klondike North Winter Games

When: February 19-21, 2010

Where: Silver Trails Scout Reservation

Cost: \$8.00 per person (youth & adult)

Sign up early to get a good campsite.

(Cost of campsite is not included in registration.) To register call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529 or get the event flyer online.

The event chairman is Mike Timm. If you have questions, contact him at michaeltimm@comcast.net.



Mackinac Island Service Troop Meeting

The first meeting for the Mackinac Island Service Troop will be Sunday, January 31, 2010 at the American Legion on 6th Street in Port Huron at 2 pm. Please mark your calendar!



We congratulate the following young men for earning their Eagle Scout rank.

Troop 141
Eric Simmons

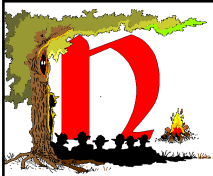
Troop 205
Joshua Kent

Troop 216
Brennan Socha

Troop 282
Jeremy Goodin

Crew 296
William Biskner

Eagle Scout Award Kits are being sponsored by the Port Huron Kiwanis Club in memory of Clayton Berdan. Each Eagle Scout receives an award kit which includes the Eagle Scout patch, Eagle Scout medal, and parent pins. Thank you to the Kiwanis for this generous contribution.



ews for All ...

Leader Training in the Blue Water Council

Every boy deserves a trained leader... and that's what we did! In October, the Blue Water Council rated #1 in Area 2 for having the highest percentage of top leaders trained! Thank you to all of our Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Den Leaders, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members and Pack Trainers for taking time out of your busy schedules to get trained! That's the kind of dedication we need to give our boys the quality program they deserve!

We are working toward 100% of our leaders being trained now so when it is a national requirement, we will already be there. So far this fall, we had leaders from the following units attend training: Packs 102, 111, 130, 135, 154, 171, 178, 320, 335, Troops 104, 111, 205, 245, and Crew 245. We even had 11 Boy Scouts go to Den Chief training from Troops 146, 200, 223, 245, 322.

There is training for Cub Scout leaders on January 16th at Silver Trails Scout Reservation from 9 am until 12 pm for all positions, Cubmaster, Committee, Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos leaders. All training information is available on our website at www.bwcbbsa.org and flyers will get emailed to unit leadership.

Merit Badge Counselor Update

Merit badge counselors are registered in this position for one year and then must be re-registered. The term for merit badge counselors in the Blue Water Council is December 1 through November 30. All merit badge counselors that were registered on November 1 were sent a letter asking if they wanted to renew their registration for another year. If you received the letter and want to remain a merit badge counselor, you don't have to notify us. We will automatically re-register you (on December 1) as a merit badge counselor for the badges listed on your letter for the year December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010. If you don't want to remain a merit badge counselor, you must contact Judy at the Scout Service Center.

If you think you are registered as a merit badge counselor but did not receive a letter, your registration as a merit badge counselor may have expired and you will need to fill out a new MBC application. A new merit badge counselor list will be available in January 2010.



Thank you to everyone who serves Scouting by being a merit badge counselor.

Polar Bear Patches are Here!

Boy Scouts can earn the Polar Bear patch by winter camping anytime between December 1, 2009 through March 19, 2010. The flyer with requirements is on our website under Boy Scouting: bwcbbsa.org



Greetings from Silver Trails

As most of you know, I am not the most articulate when it comes to writing. The one thing I am good at is telling a story.

Recently I had not only the privilege but honor to meet some extraordinary people at camp. When I got back into camp, I noticed ropes from the Rotary Lodge to the stairway, and a maze of ropes from the Kane building to the restroom, as well as more ropes to the fire pit. There were several folks sitting on the front porch in a variety of chairs talking and laughing. I introduced myself and with a lot of handshakes and congratulations we started talking. Most of these folks are legally blind. I had some reservations, but as we talked and joked, I realized these people were special. After awhile, they asked if they could go on a hayride. With Cub Scare in the books and Dave L. leaving a couple of bales of straw behind, I said "OK".

By the time I got back to the Kane building with wagon and straw, most of the campers were there waiting on me. As we were preparing to board the wagon, Mike said in a loud voice "Hey guys look at that!" With disbelief I was thinking to myself look at what? These guys are nuts! As I looked around they were all looking toward the sky with smiles on their faces. Then it hit me, I saw a flock of geese and then I heard them sing their tune. I stood there for a while with a shameful look on my head. They are blind and they saw the geese first.

As we rode through camp, I would stop now and then to pick some leaves or some grass, tell them about the trees and different types of animals we had at camp. We sat at Fueslein West campsite and told stories about family and growing up, and even shared a few Scouting Stories. As dusk approached, we headed back and when we got to the bridge, I heard them all holler stop. Again scratching my head wondering what was going on. Then darkness fell on us and I heard the water run over the rocks under the bridge at Silver Creek. Then I heard a harmonica hum "*Amazing Grace*" and in the darkness, right there next to that creek, we were all the same. It's funny how something as simple as a hayride can take you to a place you never expected and you realize how much you take for granted in your everyday life.

Thank you guys for one of the most memorable days of my life!
Jerry Deeg, Camp Ranger

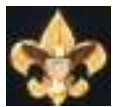
Commissioner Corner

As cold weather comes every year, so does our annual fall duties - namely helping units do an inventory of their roster so they are in great shape for re-chartering. Now is also the time to have your units show their qualifications for the Centennial Award and order their recognition materials. The forms for 2010 Centennial Award commitments are in.

Please go to the council website to get data on the "Shoot to Recruit" opportunities for Boy Scouts.

Let's all welcome our two newest unit commissioners Win Knowles and Ranger Jerry Deeg, who are taking 3 packs between them. Welcome! Have you logged into the commissioner reporting system online lately? Give it a try. Don't forget, commissioner training and helps are available on the BSA National website at scouting.org.

Yours in Scouting Service, Happy Holidays
Dan Conrad-3-Rivers Pete Cangemi-Council Commissioner



Memorials



Edward Slaggert
Arthur Wendt

Joanne Goodrich
LeRoy & Brenda Stevens

Dr. Bailey
Stevens Architects

Mervin Tomlin
Stevens Architects

Adult Leader Award Recipients

Tiger Cub Den Leader Award
Robert Aldrich



February Charter Turn-In Time

The first Charter Turn-in night will be **Tuesday, February 2, 2010** from **5-7 pm** at the Scout Service Center. Scouters will be on hand to review the charter for mistakes, take paperwork and fees. The second **Charter Turn-in will be on Thursday, February 4, 2010** in Sandusky. A location has not been determined.

Units re-chartering online or on paper may turn in their information on either of these nights. Units may also turn in their charter during regular hours at the Scout Service Center.

All charters are due at the Scout Service Center by Friday, February 12, 2010. Note this is earlier than previous years.

Black River Basin District News

Thank you to all the volunteers in the Black River Basin District for making my job here at the Blue Water Council so enjoyable! I am enjoying getting to know everyone and looking forward to working with all of you to make every unit a successful one through our partnership and teamwork.

Time is flying by and re-charter time is just around the corner! But before the end of the year, I need your help with a few things. I need to do a unit inventory of every unit, be it a Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship. If you have not already, please send me a copy of your roster, not one from here at the office, but the one you use for your unit. I need to make sure we have all those kids registered and covered under our BSA policies. Life is crazy and sometimes they can slip through the cracks. I also need you to fill out the Centennial Quality Unit form which has been mailed to the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster or Advisor and get it back to me as soon as possible. Along with the form is the order form for the Centennial Quality Unit awards so your unit can purchase emblems, pins or plaques. A streamer will be supplied free of charge for each unit qualifying for the 2009 Centennial Quality Unit recognition. Thank you again for all your efforts with the Scouting program. Together, we can give our youth the positive guidance and knowledge they need to be the next generation of great leaders!

Cyndi Jagodzinski

Scout Shop News

The holidays are just around the corner so visit the Scout Shop for gifts for your favorite Scout. Visit www.scoutstuff.org and make your list before visiting the Scout Shop. If we don't have it in stock, it can be special ordered at no additional charge. The Scout Shop is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. If you are unable to make it to the Scout Shop, call, email or fax your order, and we can ship it to you (at minimal cost).

We have sweatshirts, knives, ornaments, books and candles just to name a few things available. Whether shopping for a gift for your Scout or Leader, we have something for everyone. Pinewood Derby kits are available for your pack to give out at December pack meetings. Call and preorder yours to make sure they are available when you come in.

New items have also been added to the Centennial Section and the Clearance Sections. The Scout Shop will be open until 7 pm on Wednesday, December 9 & January 13 to accommodate the leaders attending Roundtable. We will offer this service to you each month on the second Wednesday. Just a reminder that the Scout Shop will be closed December 24-25, 30-31 and January 1 & 18.

Internet Re-chartering

Internet Re-chartering is a Web-based method for units to renew their charters from any online location - at home or at the office. It's easy, convenient and accurate because you enter the information yourself!

Here's how it works...

The Blue Water Council will have an Internet Rechartering page on our Web site (www.bwcbasa.org) with instructions and a link to the software. The unit receives its charter renewal packet as usual, only now the packet includes information for Internet Re-chartering, including an access code especially for the unit. The unit selects an adult to complete the online process. This renewal processor uses the access code to log onto the Internet Re-chartering Web site, selecting to start the process with current ScoutNET data or data from unit-management software. At any time, the renewal processor can suspend the electronic re-chartering process and return later to the last completed screen.

The system lets you enter new members, renew current members and update information for any registrant. When completed, the new unit roster is submitted to ScoutNET and a Unit Charter Renewal Report Package is printed. This package includes the unit charter application. Acquire the signatures for the charter and send it along with the rest of the package, any new youth and adult applications, and all fees to the council.

There will be a link to the Internet Re-chartering tutorial and help on the Blue Water Council Web site. Check it out - we think you'll like the design. All BSA policies are enforced throughout the system, so what you enter is sure to meet all requirements.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Janice Dubay at the Blue Water Council office 810-982-9529 or jdu-bay@bsamail.org.



CELEBRATING THE ADVENTURE ★ CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

As you probably know by now, the Blue Water Council will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in a big way with a “100 Years of Scouting Exhibit” at the Port Huron Museum from February 6 through April 25, 2010. We need your help to make this a success.

1. We are still looking for **Scout Memorabilia** and any material on the history of the Blue Water Council and Silver Trails.
2. Do you have a **Scout Story** to share?
3. We need **Scout volunteers** to help out at the museum on Saturdays and Sundays.
4. We want to have a complete list of all our **Eagle Scouts**. If you received your Eagle Award with the Blue Water Council or are now with the council, please let us know. We also want pictures and a brief description of some **Eagle Projects**.
5. **PICTURES!!** Share some of your pictures of your Scouts in action, doing a service project, going on a trip, getting an award or just having fun.
6. Enter the **Pinewood Derby Car Design Competition**. The registration form and complete details are on our website at www.bwcbbsa.org (See below for more info.)
7. Build and design a Pinewood Derby Car for use during the Museum exhibit. (We have 19 kits left for people willing to design and build a car and give it back to us for use on the track which will be set up at the museum. You will not get these cars back.)
8. We are looking for a Scout Troop or group to build a Gateway at the Museum.

For more information, contact Judy McCarthy at the Scout Service Center 810-982-9529 or jumccart@bsamail.org. We are also looking for some volunteers to help coordinate some of the displays. **Help us have a great exhibit!**

Eagle Scout Banquet Will Be Tuesday, February 9, 2010

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank achieved by a Boy Scout. To earn this award, Boy Scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a leadership role and plan an Eagle Scout leadership service project. The young men who earn this prestigious award in 2009 are brought together as a group to recognize their achievement. The Blue Water Council is on track to have over 30 Scouts earn their Eagle Scout Award this year. At the Eagle Scout Banquet, the council will be honoring these Scouts and their inspirers. The banquet will be held Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at the First United Methodist Church, 828 Lapeer in Port Huron. Registration and fellowship will begin at 6:30 pm and dinner will be at 7 pm. There will be no charge for the Eagle Scout and his inspirer. The cost for guests will be \$13 per person. An invitation will be sent in January to those Scouts being recognized.



Eagle Scout and Times Herald Columnist, Mike Connell, will be the guest speaker. If you have any questions, call the Scout Service Center at 810-982-9529.

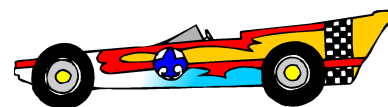
US Mint to Produce BSA Silver Dollars

The Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act passed in both the House and Senate and has been officially signed into law by the president.

350,000 silver dollar coins will be produced by the US Mint in 2010. The minting will occur between February 8, 2010 and January 1, 2011. For each coin sold, there is a \$10 surcharge that will directly benefit Scouts in hard-to-serve areas, adding up to \$3.5 million new revenue for the BSA Foundation. These funds will become available after the coin sales are completed. Grant request requirements and guidelines will be developed by the BSA Foundation and shared with local councils in advance of fund availability.

This legislation brings some amazing new opportunities to the BSA! This is a great honor and we thank the Congressmen and Senators for their dedication and support of Scouting.

Pinewood Derby Car Design Competition Theme BSA 100th Anniversary



As part of the BSA 100th Anniversary Exhibit at the Port Huron Museum, the Blue Water Council is having a Pinewood Derby Car Design Competition. Put your thinking caps on and let your imagination go. Dream up a 100th Anniversary Car, build it and enter it in the competition. You could be a winner of \$50!

The Scout Shop has all the materials you need to purchase to build your car: car kits, colored wheels, stickers and other accessories. All entries will be locked in display cases at the Museum during the entire exhibit. These special cars will not be available for races, but judged on their design. There will be three divisions: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and even adults. A \$50 prize will be awarded to the winner in each division. Who can come up with the best design?

All cars are to be turned into the Museum by January 6, 2010 with the entry form found on our website: www.bwcbbsa.org. The exhibit runs from February 6 through April 25, 2010. Cars will be returned to the designer after the exhibit.

Get busy and start building your BSA 100th Anniversary Car now!

From Steve Down's Backpack . . .



I watched Joe as he fleshed out the beaver pelt, one of several he and Greg had trapped in a swampy oxbow stretch of the Black River, in the State Game Area. He scraped again and again to remove the fat and tissue from the underside of the fur pelt. The fur was beautiful and told a story.

Numerous scars from wounds sustained in fights indicated the possibility of an overcrowded environment. The underside of the pelt told a story of a fight for survival. In an area apparently teeming with wildlife, this animal had met many challenges. It would be fascinating to know the stories behind each of these wounds. Some of the wounds were large and viscous, and probably life threatening. The beaver's story is one of survival.

As I watched the effort Joe expended in fleshing out the pelt, I thought about the mountain men of the late 1800's, for whom survival was a continuous battle. Their quest was to trap animals for their hides, which could then be sold for cash or traded for the necessities of life.

A good season of trapping might yield as many as six "packs" of pelts. A pack might have consisted of ten buffalo, fourteen bear, sixty otter, eighty beaver, a hundred and twenty fox, or six hundred muskrat pelts. These dried pelts were pressed into "packs" to ease handling. Each pack weighed about one hundred pounds.

When he wasn't trapping animals or caring for the pelts, he was busy finding food, building a fire for warmth, drying berries or preparing food so it could be stored in caches for times of famine. In his spare time, he might find his reward in something as basic as watching the stars of the night sky. Many times, his toils were interrupted with the need to fight to protect what was his. Indeed, his story, also, is one of survival.

Recently, I had the pleasure of working at one of several stations during the "Wilderness Survival" Campout. John and I gave instruction on assembling a survival kit and dressing properly for the weather. Unrehearsed, we played off one another's presentations like a couple old pros. We both enjoyed that!

The survival kits basic elements of a first aid kit, a compass, a fire starter, and some matches topped the list. John's wax dipped kitchen matches were a major point of curiosity for the young Scouts. "Those look gross!" exclaimed one Scout. (It turns out that it is almost impossible to find kitchen matches anymore. Apparently they have been declared unsafe!)

Another hit was the "Flaming Frito". Oh, you remember that! It only works for Boy Scouts, as they are the only wilderness travelers that include something like Fritos in the limited space afforded them in their backpacks. As fire starters, Fritos are surpassed only by birch bark. There was amazement in each little audience as we lit a Frito and compared it to birch bark. (Maybe they should take Fritos off the shelf, just like the kitchen matches!)

At the other stations, Scouts learned to build fires, apply first aid, signal for help, and build shelters. The presenters touched on all aspects of wilderness survival. The techniques taught in this merit badge have served Scouts, Scouters, and others in life threatening situations. This merit badge experience is a story of survival.

Struggling with finding a topic for this month's article, I suddenly realized that I was surrounded by the most appropriate topic of all – survival. On television, there are ads for canned food collections or clothing for less fortunate folks. At my work, there are collections for non-perishable foods, winter coats for youngsters, and of course, money. Numerous restaurants, grocery stores and party stores have collection boxes set up for the needy. Of course, the Boy Scout's annual assistance with the Salvation Army food drive will help bring food to hundreds of families in need.

Our friends and neighbors are in a survival mode more than ever. The economy has devastated families that have never known what it is to be hungry or cold. The number of folks needing assistance is at an all time high, and the sources of help are stressed like never before. Many of these folks are literally living a story of survival.

Scouts and Scouters alike represent a huge opportunity in these difficult times. The uniform we wear and the principals we teach, *doing a good turn daily and helping other people at all times* gives us an unique opportunity to help.

Put extra energy into "Scouting for Food". Offer to pick up the bag from someone who didn't see the Scouts come by. Stay out one extra hour with your Troop or Pack. Or do something extra with your Troop or Pack by making donations to other community organizations. Service time, food or clothing can all help.

It's a real story of survival.

Steve Down November 2009

Scouting for Food with the Salvation Army and Blue Water Council

Community service and doing a Good Turn are a big part of Scouting. As a matter of fact, this is the 76th year that the Salvation Army and Blue Water Council are teaming up to collect food for needy families in the area. Every year this partnership brings in over 3,000 food bags to make Christmas a truly joyous occasion for those who might not otherwise have it.



This year, the bag distribution is scheduled for Saturday, December 5 with bag pick-up on Saturday, December 12, 2009. The Salvation Army will be collecting the food bags at the Sawmill Commons Shopping Center at 4731 Lapeer Road from 9 am-2 pm. We need as many units to participate to help with this very worthy project. If your unit has not yet signed up or would like to partner with another unit, contact the Scout Service Center for an available area. There are information sheets and bags still available at the Service Center. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Cyndi Jagodzinski at cyndi.jagodzinski@scouting.org or 810-982-9529.



The BRIDGE
BLUE
WATER
COUNCIL

924 7th Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
Port Huron, MI
48060
Permit No. 307

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Member Agency



December

- 1 Polar Bear Begins
- 4 Unit Popcorn Pickup - 6 pm FedEx
- 5 Salvation Army Bag Distribution
- 9 Commissioner Meeting/Roundtables - 7 pm SSC
- 12 Scouting for Food Bag Pickup
- 14 Executive Committee Meeting - 6 pm SSC
- 16 District Committee Meetings - 7 pm
- 24-25 Scout Service Center Closed**
- 29 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 30 Inventory - Scout Service Center Closed**
- 31 New Year's Eve - Scout Service Center Closed**

January

- 1 New Year's Day-Scout Service Center Closed**
- 7 FOS Family Kickoff - 7 pm SSC
- 9 OA Banquet - 6:30 United Methodist Church
- 11 Executive Board Meeting
- 13 Commissioner Meeting/Roundtables - 7 pm
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day-SSC Closed**
- 20 District Planning Conference
- 25 Properties Committee Meeting - 7 pm SSC
- 26 Eagle Board of Review - 7 pm Westminster Church
- 30 Klondike South - Algonac State Park

LOST & FOUND

We have some jackets and sweatshirts left from fall activities at Silver Trails. If not picked up soon, they will be donated.

Blue Water Council on Facebook
Check out our Facebook page for our Scout Activities.



Holiday Hours

December 24, 25 CLOSED
December 28 & 29 Open 9 am-5 pm
December 30 CLOSED FOR INVENTORY
December 31 & January 1 CLOSED

Council President
Earl DesJardins 810-984-5506 ext 201

Council Commissioner
Peter Cangemi 810-327-2327

Black River Basin District
Terry Green-District Chairman 810-385-7669
District Commissioner

3-Rivers District
District Chairman
Dan Conrad-District Commissioner 810-794-9907

Roundtable Commissioners
Bobbie Rogers-CS Roundtable 810-434-7709
Steve McPherson-BS Roundtable 810-966-2246

Scout Service Center Staff 810-982-9529

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Judy McCarthy	Secretary/Receptionist	jumccart@bsamail.org
Lori Thueme	Scout Shop Manager	lthueme@bsamail.org