

July 2011

Volume 12



# Tomahawk Alumni Association

*Serving Past and Present Staff Members and Supporting Tomahawk Scout Reservation*

## Tomahawk Alumni Service Weekend

Thank you to all who participated in last May's service day at Tomahawk Scout Reservation! Despite a chilly and damp day the spirit of the camp staff member remained bright and together we accomplished a lot of important work, and had a little fun, to ready the camp for another busy season. It was great to see alumni members and current camp staffers interact and work alongside each other throughout the day. Workers enjoyed a delicious and hearty soup and sandwich lunch prepared by a culinary artist...my wife. We worked into the late afternoon and some staff stayed over to work on Sunday as well.

We had roughly 35 people in attendance throughout the day not including the ranger staff and assistants. Together we performed at least 250 hours worth of work—fantastic!

Key projects included:

- Construction at the new logging camp
- High Adventure bouldering wall construction
- Demolition of the Navajo Scoutcraft cabin and staining of the new cabin
- Cleaning the White Pine program building
- Organization of the rangers shop area
- Sent Snow Base sleeping bags to the laundry
- Demolition of the yurt
- Overall policing and cleaning up of camp

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I'm sure I overlooked other projects that were completed as there were many moving targets throughout the day.

A special thanks to TAA board members Larry Moser, Tom Creager, Greg Rohde, and Myron Jacobson for making the trip to camp and helping lead projects during the weekend. The service day is becoming a great tradition I hope we can build on year after year and is serving a major function in helping get the camp ready for use. Now if we could just get the weather to cooperate more next time we'll be in great shape!

Mark McCabe, Director of Camping and Properties

## Planning For The Future

The alumni association board met April 13, 2011, in a special planning session to take stock of where the TAA is today and where we should go with it in the future. Members looked at the three elements of our purpose as an organization (check them out on the website at <http://alumni.camptomahawk.org/>) and how we have done at accomplishing them. Basically with only a few tweaks, the purpose as stated was determined to be valid and viable.

Several board members will help with website work, Scott Shuette will continue to handle the sparkler, and Jim Frost was appointed newsletter editor.

Anyone interest in helping, particularly with the website, should contact president Myron Jacobson, [myron.jacobson@q.com](mailto:myron.jacobson@q.com) or Mark McCabe, [mmccabe@northernstarbsa.org](mailto:mmccabe@northernstarbsa.org).

Persons with input regarding projects to assist the camp should also get them to Myron or Mark. Current and former staff members with stories for the newsletter may send them to Jim Frost, [jimfrost@aol.com](mailto:jimfrost@aol.com).

### **Key elements for the future include:**

- ◆ Update the website
- ◆ Regular member communication via newsletters
- ◆ Look at additional ways to communicate, specifically Web-based
- ◆ Membership recruitment
- ◆ Strong member incentives and services
- ◆ Continue with an annual holiday season meeting and party
- ◆ Plan and promote a quinquennium reunion at camp
- ◆ Hold a TAA-sponsored sparkler every summer
- ◆ Identify and implement a project or projects to support Tomahawk

## ***2011 TAA Board of Directors***

**Tom Creager:** Worked at camp 1960-61.

Tom grew up living on Beaver Lake in North St. Paul where he was a Scout; he now lives in Hugo. He is retired. Tom's first recreational love is playing hockey; he competes in a league that includes players 40 years younger. He serves on the TAA board because of the impact Scouting at Tomahawk had on his life; he still is amazed at the skill with which young staff members taught and guided campers. He relives his years at camp over and over again and his memories include meeting, "some of the greatest guys in the world," and "How sweet!" was his time at Tomahawk.

**Jim Frost:** Worked at camp 1960-62, 64, 65.

Jim grew up in St. Paul and was a member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church Troop 80. He is now living in Stone Lake, WI, and although semi-retired works as a part-time events management consultant. In the winter he skis, and in the summer he rides a motorcycle and canoes; he reads a lot all the time. A past president of TAA, he is back on the board because of the value he feels the association has. His favorite memories of Tomahawk revolve around the great friends he made in camp and around the lake, the opportunity to teach waterfront skills, and the chance to practice self-reliance.

**Keith Johansen:** Worked at camp 1957-58.

Keith is from Hastings and Troop 207 there; at camp he was Administration Building director. He is now a part-time university faculty member and likes to read history and cook. He is a TAA board member because of his desire to "pay it forward" after having had very strong, positive memories of Scouting experiences. "I learned a lot, the values and challenges of Scouting helped me achieve success as an adult." Best camp experiences were meeting and interacting with a seemingly never-ending cast of characters, from Ed Molby, Dick Fihn and Terry Pratt, to Doug Keim, Lloyd Knutson, Ma and Fern in the kitchen and camp ranger Bob Bryant.

**Chris Lacher:** Worked at camp 1985-86, 93.

Chris was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church Troop 431 in his hometown of White Bear Lake. He now lives in St. Paul and is senior customer service manager at Dart Transfer. His favorite recreation is camping. He serves on the TAA board to help serve alumni and make sure programs are available for them. His best memory at camp is when he had to round up the horses when they got out of the corral. "I was on my horse Shanna. We were rounding the bend on the main road and because it was a foggy morning with the sun shining the horses appeared through the mist. It was truly a magical moment. They saw me and knew it was time to go home and I walked them all back to the horse corral."

**Dale Martin:** Worked at camp 1955-59

Dale lives near Stillwater. As a youth he grew up in Falcon Heights and was a member of Troop 233, later Ship 92. He is retired and now carves, turns, and collects vintage British sports cars. He serves on the TAA board because Scouting was a large part of his life and his time at Tomahawk was a very positive experience. "I hope others will have a similar experience." To Dale the most memorable thing about being on the camp staff was meeting and working with a great bunch of guys—to this day he values the time spent together.

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### ***TAA to Host Sparkler for Tomahawk Staff 7/28/11***

Continuing a recently-begun tradition, the Tomahawk Alumni Association will be presenting another sparkler for the Tomahawk Staff. Sparklers are always highlights of the summer, offering an opportunity for staff from all the sub-camps and programs of Tomahawk to come together for laughs, food, and casual competition. The last several years have seen a Tomahawk Idol talent show and a Best Skit Competition.



President-Elect Scott Schuette has prepared for a 2011 sparkler, referred to as "Air Band!" The event will be organized by a combination of TAA members and current camp staff, this sparkler which faded from existence after the demise of the Chippewa Beach Boat House. Last year, Scott did a dead-on impression of Chris Farley's Mick Foley, thoroughly entertaining all staff familiar with the SNL "In a van down by the river!" sketch.

Please join us on Thursday, **July 28, 2011** for this treasured event. You may check in either at the Welcome Center or Central Services. It is very likely to happen that the sparkler will take place in the newly-acquired pole barn at the north end of the peninsula (which may or may not be haunted.)

We would really like to have more alumni members present at this event. Any alumni interested in helping out and attending the event should contact Scott Schuette at [scott.schuette@comcast.net](mailto:scott.schuette@comcast.net).

# History of Tomahawk Scout Reservation

During the coming months editions of the newsletter will include stories about the history of Tomahawk Scout Reservation from prehistoric times through today. A great deal of the content will be taken from information and illustrations that are a large part of the history exhibit within the Berglund Welcome Center at camp.

## I. Landscape Evolution—Three Billion Years of History!

The story of the early evolution of water and land into what is now Long Lake and Tomahawk Scout Reservation is one of epic proportion that chronicles colliding land masses, volcanoes, continental rift, erosion, floods, and vast mountains of ice.

The evolutionary story starts with sedimentary bedrock—2,980 million years old—an ancient remnant of the prehistoric North American continent. Approximately 1,850 million years ago a volcanic island chain collided with North America, forming high mountains from Minnesota to Michigan that eroded over time.



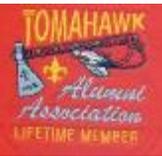
Tomahawk Scout Reservation—30,000 Years Ago

The continent pulled apart 1,100 million years ago in the Mid-Continental Rift along the axis of Lake Superior. This rift ran through what are now the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and even Kansas. In this zone volcanoes produced oozing lava flows and volcanic rock similar to Hawaii and Iceland.

Erosion of the rock followed for 550 million years, smoothing Wisconsin’s topography. Then, shallow seas flooded our area. Streams carried sand and mud and deposited it into this water system that covered Sawyer and Washburn counties 520 million years ago. This sand and mud is now part of the Cambrian Period bedrock that underlies most of southern Washburn County.

Bedrock under the camp is buried beneath 100 to 200 feet of glacial sediment. During the Late Pleistocene Epoch and last part of the Ice Age (some 20,000 years ago) thick glaciers eroded material in Canada and northern Wisconsin and deposited sediment at the ice margin. As ice melted, irregular hills and ridges were formed in the surrounding area in a landform called a moraine.

## President’s Corner: TAA Membership Online



Your membership matters! Once a year the Alumni Association reaches out to TSR alumni who are not yet association members by sending our newsletter to all alumni. Belonging to the TAA is the best way to stay connected to your camp and the staff you worked with while supporting Tomahawk and the campers and staffers of today.

Through your membership you'll stay connected with the latest camp improvements and alumni news, receive invitations and updates about alumni service and social events, and know that your helping to continue the quality programs at Tomahawk. So, if you are a TSR alumnus who is not yet a member of the Alumni Association, or if you have let your membership laps, I would like to personally invite you to join the TAA. You'll be glad you did. Remembering our past, maintaining our relationships, helping today's campers and staff, and being good stewards of Tomahawk's future are what were all about.

Dues fees provide the resources to keep past staff members connected to each other and to the camp but they also provide resources that can be used to support the Scouting program at Tomahawk providing a better experience for Scouts participating in the program. Dues and donations to the TAA have been used for the support of several things including funding for service projects at Tomahawk, building a new entrance sign, paying for current camp staff summer social events, and providing training resources for summer staff. Please visit our on-line membership registration site for an easy way to become a member today.

<http://events.SignUp4.net/TSRAumni> If you have any questions about the association, contact Myron Jacobson at [myron.jacobson@q.com](mailto:myron.jacobson@q.com).

## *History of Tomahawk Scout Reservation—Part II*

### II. The Ice Age—Wisconsinan Glaciation 75,000 to 9,500 Years Ago

Glaciations occurred many times from two million to about 10,000 years ago. The Wisconsinan Glaciation, 75,000 to 9,500 years ago, is the most recent and most important for this area. It was named after the state because of the diverse glacial landforms present here. As the name implies, Late Wisconsinan Glaciation, dating from 30,000 to 9,500 years ago, is the last part of the Wisconsinan Glaciation.

Canada and much of the northern United States were covered with glaciers up to two miles thick. They eroded material in Canada and transported it south. In this area the glaciers dumped sediment at the ice margin to form the St. Croix and Chippewa Moraines to the southeast and southwest of Long Lake. Beyond the moraines are flat outwash plains.

A variant of the process formed Long Lake. Rapidly flowing subglacial meltwater sometimes eroded long, deep shafts beneath the ice, a feature called a tunnel channel. The west and east arms of Long Lake are tunnel channels. After the west arm erosion event, a smaller subglacial stream deposited a sinuous ridge of sand and gravel in the tunnel channel. Today this beautiful, winding, snake-like ridge (an esker) forms Kunz Island.

Glacial sediment in the Long Lake area is 100 to 200 feet thick; it created the basis for our present day landscape.

On top of the glacial sediment is a relatively thin layer of soil. This soil formed as the original sediment, called parent material, weathered chemically and mixed with decomposed plant matter. At the rate of one inch every 500 years it grew thicker and eventually conifer trees grew in the new soil.

## *2011 TAA Board of Directors cont . . .*

**Mark McCabe:** Worked at camp 1998-2001 and 2006-Present.

Mark lived in Madelia as a young man and was a member of Troop 23 of St. Mary's Catholic Church there; he now lives in St. Paul and at Tomahawk. Mark is a professional Scouter and director of camping and properties for Northern Star Council. He enjoys fishing and many outdoor activities. As camp director he is an ex officio member of the TAA board where he "really" enjoys connecting with alumni from different generations and likes being part of the association's service to camp.

At camp his favorites are the July 4 parades, which show staff creativity at its finest as members create floats and inspire campers.

**Tyler McKean:** Currently works at Phillippo Scout Reservation; 1998-2007 at Tomahawk.

Tyler grew up in Stillwater and was a Boy Scout in Troop 113 of the Bayport Legion. He currently resides at Phillippo Scout Reservation since he is a professional scouter as Manager of Cub Camping. Tyler thoroughly enjoys playing Ultimate Frisbee and staying active in the outdoors. While on staff at tomahawk he worked at White Pine, Navajo and as a Reservation staff member. His fondest memory of camp was residing in the McLean cabin with none other than Ralph McLean during their last summer at TSR.

**Larry Moser:** Worked at camp 1960-64.

Larry grew up and was a Boy Scout in South St. Paul, and is one of three brothers who served at Tomahawk. He is retired from both the United States Air Force and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and now lives in Inver Grove Heights. He is into woodworking and hiking. His service on the TAA board is based on reconnecting with Scouting and helping Tomahawk while working with a great group of people.

**Gregory Rohde:** Worked at camp 2000-04

Gregory lives in Minneapolis; he grew up and was a Boy Scout in New Town, ND. He currently is a chemistry graduate student and for recreation likes biking most of all. He is currently obtaining a PhD in Chemistry. He is a member of the alumni association board to provide service to its members and to Tomahawk.

*Other board members are Myron Jacobson and Scott Schuette*