



CAMP BABCOCK-HOVEY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015



JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN ON MARCH 1

The Babcock Hovey Alumni Association is inviting you and your family to join in our annual winter outing. Last year we enjoyed the Ganondagan winter festival followed by lunch at Salvatore's. This year we will be going to The Museum of the Earth in Ithaca, on March 1st. This will be a free event since the museum offers free admission on that day. The Museum of the Earth offers so many great exhibits there is bound to be something for everyone. The museum opens at 11am, we would like to meet at the entrance by 11:30. Feel free to roam the museum at your own pace, we do not need to stay together as a group the entire time. The alumni association is hoping to see many of our scouting families at this event so please let your other scouting friends about this event and encourage them to come along. Take a look at the museum's website at www.museumoftheearth.org to get an idea of the fun we will be having.

Written by Justin Kuczma aka Sir Chicken Man

2014-2015 Babcock-Hovey Alumni Association Executive Committee

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On The Retirement of Conrad Wedding



Part of growing up is becoming disillusioned with your childhood heroes. One of the things that makes Conrad remarkable is that, as you get to know him, your respect for him only increases. Like many of you, when I first saw him he was a large barrel of a man who had his own table in the Dining Hall, the first time I talked to him was probably after being forced by someone else to enter the shop of mythical wonders and ask for a can of paint, but I don't remember, probably out of the sheer terror of it.

Thousands upon thousands have passed through this camp in his over 25 years as Camp Ranger. They have found it a comfortable and beautiful place. People are used to having water where they want water, dryness where they want dryness, electricity, wildlife, and warmth in certain places but not in others. Many of you live in homes where these are built-in features, but for the 290 acres of Hovey these do not come 'naturally'; they are present due to efforts, ingenuity, planning, plotting, collaboration, frugality and generosity of Conrad. As a young man, I found myself frequently without such niceties, so I resolved to be at Hovey as much as possible.

In that pursuit, I have, of course, interacted with Conrad quite a bit and I have found, very fortunately for me, that he suffers fools gladly. I am proudly in a cadre of 20 or so fools who make the things at Hovey happen. Go to an event at Hovey and you're guaranteed to run into at least 3 of us. This is a group of diverse talents, sensibilities, ages, visions, goals, demeanors and table manners. We are quite often at each other's throats and some of us actively avoid each other. I would say the only thing we share, other than a fondness for Hovey, is respect of and friendship with Conrad Wedding.

Hovey, for Conrad, has been his home, his place of business, the place he raised his family; he has been trusted to make sure every acre was enjoyed and used, but not abused. He has had to meet the needs of professionals, volunteers, children of all types, the community of Ovid, and his family. An impossible balancing act, that he made seem easy. Sure there have been hiccoughs along the way, Conrad is only human (really), but he is one of the best ones you'll ever meet.

So now that Conrad is 'officially' retired, I am not filled with much sadness, because I am certain he will be around, keeping me out of trouble and telling me amazing stories. I do wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors, this should come easier for him, because I won't be there breaking his things. *Written by Alexander Augustus Peck aka Scoops*



Help us Help our Summer Camp Staff

Our fondest memories of Camp are more often focused on the people we meet there than facilities. Over the past 20 years, Hovey has seen improvement in every program area, every campsite, every facility. Staff members continually built upon the tradition of selfless service set up by previous generations of great staff members. The staff has met all new modern challenges and maintained the traditions we all love so much. One thing that has not changed, been remodeled, or modernized to keep up with the ever improving staff culture, is the staff area. The current staff area is just deteriorating with age is an eyesore as always, and becoming increasingly uncomfortable. To this end, we are moving the staff area to Lamoka, eliminating the blot on a main trail of camp and giving staff members what we owe them and what they desperately want: a quiet and comfortable place to recharge. Permanent Shelters will be built, platforms need repair or be replaced, tents need to be upgraded, and electricity has to be run safely and sensibly. To continue our great traditions and to go forward we need your help and to be frank, money. We are accepting donations of \$10 or \$20, or if you are as passionate as we are, or just want to leave a mark on the new staff site as you did the old one for a more substantial donation you may Sponsor a Tent or Sponsor a Shelter. Help us Help our Summer Camp Staff. *Written by Jay Laitenberger aka Spinner*

The Babcock-Hovey Alumni Association is Going Green

In an effort to reduce waste, all paid members can now request to receive their newsletter electronically. This not only saves the environment but also saves money in mailing costs. Please send an email to matthewcrance@gmail.com telling him you would like to go green.

2014 a Year in Review

As I have researched the history of Camp Babcock-Hovey, I have found that the Annual Camping Report at the Annual Dinner has been a great source of historical information on a year to year basis. Unfortunately since the council merger, and the addition of two sister camps, this annual traditional update of camp has not been produced and recorded in the history of our camp. While no one is to blame, I do feel that this tradition should be continued. As such, I present to you the 2014 Annual Report of Camp.

One of the exciting items that we added to Camp Babcock-Hovey was an Amphibian Pond in the fall of 2013 through a USDA grant. In the spring of 2014 we got to see the Amphibian Pond slowly fill and actually play host to several different frog species in 2014. The croaking of frogs is not a sound that we often hear at Camp Babcock-Hovey. If you haven't yet had a chance to check it out, it is right off of the Raccoon Trail just north of Pooler's Pond.



In 2014 we saw the museum move from the Memorial Lodge into the Camp Babcock-Hovey Trading Post. It is the hope that many more scouts will view the historical photos and memorabilia. In the move the Trading Post got a partial make over. Plans are underway to fully insulate the trading post and add air conditioning at some point in the future. During this move the Memorial Lodge got a painting make over and had several little projects completed to bring it back into the rental rotation for Camp. In 2014 the Cooks had the privilege at being the first residents in a few years. A BIG thanks to Jay Laitenberger and his Aquatics crew for working on both of these projects.

The biggest project of 2014 was the construction of a BB Gun and Archery Shooting Shelters



funded by a NYSDEC Shooting Sports Grant. The shelters were a yearlong project, with the layout occurring in early spring, holes augered through what seemed like boulders, building of the shelters during Beaver Days and the part of staff week to make them useable for summer camp 2015, to the concrete pour and final landscaping in the fall of 2014. The BB Gun storage area is scheduled to be built in

the spring of 2015. Thanks you to Eric Falkman, Bill Lawrence, Don Declerk, Conrad Wedding, Dave Hacket, Noel Kessler, and many many others for their work on this project. These shelters will allow us to offer a better summer camp program and also offer better off season use of our shooting sports ranges. These shelters were completely built with volunteered help as a matching donation to the NYSDEC Grant.



For a few years now our climbing program has struggled. We are slowly trying to rebuild this



program and the first step in that process was to add a bouldering wall to the former C.O.P.E. building. By placing the Bouldering Wall inside it enabled us to meet the security needs of the program and also enables us to use the bouldering wall in all types of weather even including snow. It has quickly become another added benefit to our short term camping rental program. Thank you to Steve and Martha Wheeler, Dave Dean, Jake Clancey, and crew for making this happen.

One of the biggest things to happen to camp this year was the May's floodings that devastated Camp just two months before the opening of summer camp. The main road was washed out near the small nature pond, many trails washed out, the main pedestrian bridge was undermined and the washout of the lakefront area and loss of the lakefront lean-to and lakefront equipment. Thanks to many tireless hours put in by the Camp Babcock-Hovey Properties Committee we managed to get camp up and running in time for summer camp. Thank you.

In 2014 Mohawk campsite was brought back into service, and Onondaga campsite taken out of service to rest for a few years. Many trees were removed, a cedar snake rail fence was added, and two shelters built. Thank too many different units and the Order of the Arrow for their work on the lumber clearing and fence. Thanks to the Cub Scout Resident Staff for their work on the Shelters and Thank you for Dave Hagg and Crew for the installation of electric to the shelters. By letting Mohawk campsite rest for a few years we were able to transform it from one of the worst campsites in camp into one of the best campsites.



I have only mentioned the highlights of the projects completed in Camp in 2014. There were many more completed and many more layers of thanks to be told; like the Lakefront Trail completed by the Order of the arrow or the electrical upgrade to the South Shower House. Thank you to every one of you that has helped make Camp Babcock-Hovey the Premier Boy Scout Camp in the Finger Lakes Region. I am only one person and I could not do the job that I do without your help. Thank You.

Lastly I would like to Thank Conrad Wedding and his family for his and their 25+ years of services to Camp Babcock-Hovey. Conrad is leaving some big shoes for the new ranger to fill. Conrad has indeed left his mark on not only Camp Babcock-Hovey but many future generations of Campers that will pass through our doors. I and everyone else wishes Conrad and his family the best of luck in his retirement.
By Matthew Crance aka "PAWN" and Camp Babcock-Hovey Properties Committee Chairman.

NOTE: Any funds left over after this project is complete can be used towards any Camp Capital Improvements at Camp Babcock-Hovey at the discretion of the Camp Babcock-Hovey Properties Committee.

Camp Babcock-Hovey
Alumni Association
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POSTAGE



Friends

Are like underwear

Some Crawl up your butt...

Some snap under pressure...

Some don't have the strength to hold
you up...

Some get a little Twisted...

Some are your favorite...

Some are cheap and just plain nasty...

And some actually do cover your butt
when you need them to...

