



NORTH STAR MUSEUM

BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

June 2012

TAKE PART IN AN EXCITING SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM

The summer of 2012 is shaping up to be an active and interesting summer at the Museum. You will not want to miss any of the multitude of exciting events. Plan now because we want to see you.

The month of June has already seen the Skunk Reunion and the Pause to Celebrate come and go. But, the month is not over. The week of June 25 is Super Merit Badge Week. Merit badges will be offered Tuesday through Saturday. Check the web site to see the schedule and sign up before all of the offerings are full.

On June 14, our long-awaited Patch Exhibit debuted. Come and visit regularly because it will be rotated every three months. With over 15,000 patches in our collection, we can do that.

July marks the kick off of Twilight Camp (see article in this issue). There will be Twilight Camps every Tuesday evening (July 10, 17, 24, and 31). July will also feature a special Pause to Recognize event to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteer Girl Scout archivists. The event will take place on July 21 at 11:00 A.M. Plan now to attend. Topping off a great month of activities will be another great session of "S'Mores with Juliette" on July 27 at from 6-8 p.m. Then, we have our second Super Merit Badge Week from July 16-20. That week, six merit badges are going to be offered, including Citizenship Day on July 18, which will feature three sessions of the citizenship merit badges.

The month of August slows down only slightly. Sessions of Twilight Camp is set for August 7th and 14th. Then, our third and final Super Merit Badge week takes place from August 13-17. Again, six merit badges will be offered, including, for the first time, Theatre Merit Badge. Of course, and as always, our galleries will be open. Make the Museum part of your summer plans!



Three boys at a spring Merit Badge Workshop dig in for snack time and a break in the action. The Museum will feature three Super Merit Badge weeks this summer.



On June 3, 2012, the Museum hosted its biggest Eagle Court of Honor ever. Pictured are the following boys from Troop 389 in Mahtomedi, each of whom received their Eagle Badge. The boys are, from left to right, standing: Brian Chi, Brodey Perron, Alex White, Travis Meron, Kevin Geyer, with Michael Doyle, kneeling.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Editor's Note: *Executive Director Claudia Nicholson delivered her annual "State of the Museum" address at the June 2 Skunk Reunion. A revised version was delivered at the June 14 "Pause to Celebrate" event. Reprinted here is her "Pause to Celebrate" address.*

It's a great day for the museum, isn't it? We are now thirty-six years old, and we have been through several phases of institutional life. This phase of our incredible journey started in 1993 when Dick Carroll was appointed by the board as volunteer curator. Dick's vision and that of the board was to bring this institution into being as a fully-functioning museum. Today, we complete one journey—to begin operating as a professional museum in our own home with no significant debt—and begin another: to fulfill the promise of the institution, to fulfill the founders' vision, and to change the way that Scouting history is collected, studied, and told across the country. Today is not the end of anything...it is yet another exciting beginning.

You see, the "museum" is not this wonderful building. The "Rosene Center" is not the museum—it is, however, the museum's home. The "museum" is not the large and interesting collection that we have, or the displays that we show to visitors in the "Guthmann Family Gallery"—although that is our heart. The "museum", in the end, is an idea—the idea that the history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest is a series of interesting stories and deeply-felt traditions that must be preserved, protected, and told. The stories encoded in the objects that we collect are here to honor the lives of every individual who ever donned a Boy Scout or Girl Scout uniform, raised their hand, and promised to obey a set of laws that, ultimately, guided their lives.

The building is an important part of this institution—it is the container—it holds our collection, our hopes, and our enthusiasm for this wonderful subject. It is a place to be: To be inspired, to be challenged, and to be celebrated.

The collection is an important part of this institution—in it are thousands of stories, of individuals, troops, units, councils—of heroism, loyalty, service, and accomplishment, with fun mixed in for good measure. But without the stories encoded within our collection objects, they are just a series of interesting paperweights, good for little aside from preventing papers from blowing away in a stiff breeze. Objects have power, and I would like to challenge you with the notion that the power of our collection has barely been scratched.

The journey we are on now is to identify the powerful stories and the lives represented in these objects, and to tell these stories to a broad audience. It never hurts any of us to be reminded of our glorious and messy past. It is useful for all people new to Girl Scouting or Boy Scouting to learn its stories and traditions. But it is crucial that this word get out to the community at large. Scouting has never existed in a vacuum. Instead, it has been shaped and influenced by the communities around it. Folks who are Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts understand this. The community at large does not necessarily, and needs to be reminded from time to time of the huge good that these organizations have done.

Our work now, and going forward, is to ensure that this history is preserved and then used so that everyone comes away with the idea that the Founders instinctively knew: this history is important, worth preserving, and worth sharing. We are in this business to connect the past TO the present FOR the future. And that, folks, is what we are going to do.

WE PAUSED TO CELEBRATE ON JUNE 14!

On June 14, the Museum Paused to Celebrate. During the program, we unveiled the new name for our building, the Rosene Center, and the newly named Guthmann Family Gallery inside the building. The celebration was topped off by the burning of our Contract for Deed with Ramsey County, in celebration of owning our building free and clear. Enjoy these pictures of the festivities and a reprinting of Claudia Nicholson's remarks at the event (see Page 2).



Retired Ramsey County Property Manager, Jolly Mangine, Susan Nemitz (director of Ramsey County Libraries), Claudia Nicholson and Bruce Thompson (current Ramsey County Property Manager) celebrate the Museum's final contract for deed payment.

Time to celebrate--the building is ours!



Pictured above is the "Rosene Center" lettering on the North side of the building. Similar lettering is on the South side.



Mike Lund had the honors during the ceremonial burning of our contract for deed at the Pause to Celebrate



Teresa, John Betsy and Howard Guthmann are pictured beneath the entrance to the Guthmann Family Gallery moments after the sign was unveiled at the Pause to Celebrate.



Here are Howard and Betsy Guthmann and Joyce and Bob Rosene enjoying the festivities inside the newly named Rosene Center at the Pause to Celebrate.

A Gathering of Stinkers

Once again, the much anticipated and very smelly Skunk Reunion took place on Saturday, June 1 in the Swanson Lodge at Fred C. Andersen Scout Reservation. A crowd of twenty-six skunks enjoyed some fellowship, a lively program and a wonderful meal, courtesy of Charlie Opp, with assistance from Joan Robbins.

This year, Kent York was the keynote speaker. The group thoroughly enjoyed his entertaining and humorous review of a fifty year career as a youth in Scouting and as a pro-



Paul Bartyzal (left) and Jim Rupert flank 2012 Skunk of the Year recipient John Guthmann.

fessional Scouter. Following Claudia Nicholson's State of the Museum Address (reprinted in part in this issue), the 2012 Skunk of the Year was presented. This year's recipient is John Guthmann. John has the profile you would expect a Skunk of the Year to have. He was the Museum's Board Chair for seven years and is a former Cubmaster. He also served as the O.A. Lodge Adviser, Council Vice President of District Operations, Council Vice President of Membership and he has been on the Council Board of Directors for over twenty years. He is a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, Founder's Award, Spurgeon Award and the Museum's own Venerable Order of Polaris Award. John is also an Eagle Scout. Does he stink, or what?

The Skunks continue to perform important service to the Museum. Most recently, they have spent a series of Wednesdays working on the Museum's extensive mug collection. They have reorganized, documented, and photographed the vast majority of them. Once the duplicates are identified, they will be taken to our Case Warehouse for storage, thus freeing up at least three racks for storage of artifacts in the Museum's on-site storage area. And, when we get to the point of deaccessioning the duplicates, we will already have them documented before they go out the door. What a tremendous accomplishment.



The Skunk Reunion featured a reunion of Scout professionals. From right to left are Clarence Hammett, John Kemper, Kent York, and Ron Phillippo.



Here is just one of the several cases on loan from the Girl Scouts of the Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys. You will not want to miss seeing this Girl Scout Centennial exhibit first hand.

Come on Out to See our New Girl Scout Exhibit

As you know, the Girl Scouts of the USA are celebrating its Centennial in 2012. The Museum had the opportunity to participate in the Great Girl Gathering at the Mall of America in March.

As part of the Great Girl Gathering, the Heritage Committee, volunteer archivists for the Girl Scouts of the Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, put together a terrific history display that featured a timeline of local Girl Scout history in high-quality display cases. Now, through an agreement with the Council, our Museum has received the Great Girl Gathering display cases on loan. The cases are located in our gallery and are filled with great Girl Scout material from the Council's archives collection. You will not want to miss this display! It is worth a special trip to the Museum.

The long awaited Patch Collection display was open for viewing for the first time at the Pause to Celebrate. Pictured here is one side of the two-sided exhibit.



Experience Twilight Camp

This summer, the Museum will be offering a brand new program called Twilight Camp. The North Star Museum's Twilight Camp will run on Tuesday evenings for much of the summer, taking place on July 10, 17, 24, and 31 and August 7 and 14.

Twilight Camp is for boys and girls from six to eleven years old. Each camp will have a theme, games and an opportunity to learn simple skills. Twilight Camp will end with parents and kids around the campfire for s'mores. The cost is only \$6 per session for members, and \$8 per session for non-members. Each Camp will be self-contained, so it is not necessary to attend all of them. Get the word out about Twilight Camp and plan to attend. To sign up for the camps, just contact Claudia Nicholson at the Museum (651-748-2880).

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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