

KAMO Newsletter for June, 2016

Hello KAMO Members,

This is KAMO President Mark Walters with my monthly update. I just returned from another great trip to Canada with my daughter Selina and six family members. Selina caught her first 40-inch northern pike and we had a blast.

Back to KAMO, presently I have never witnessed so much progress in our organization from an administrative front as I have since our March meeting in Stevens Point. Ben Gruber has done some excellent work with the WDNR on a two-year grant. Thanks Ben!

Mike Brown of the Coulee Chapter has written an incredible handbook that has my stamp of approval and I can only assume everyone else's after they read it. Mike recently retired after a great career as a teacher in Onalaska and we are blessed to have Mike in our organization

We have recently had a KAMO member with a background in grant writing come forward to help on a state wide basis.

Pete McCormick, our 2nd Vice President, is the official go to person on insurance questions. Thanks Pete!

As I am writing this I just received a phone call from a young man that wants to join KAMO and has an education in the area and goals of electronically setting up kids and mentors. Though it is too early to be specific it looks like The Lake Wisconsin Chapter and KAMO just picked up another top notch member. I had just read a long email from Derric, sent one back and he called within minutes.

I know that I am missing a lot and if you look at the calendar this is when a lot of our mentor/mentee events are happening but the bottom line is that everyone of us is working together to create a very solid long-term way of getting kids outside. Most of us recognized that we had weaknesses but we are trying to upgrade on all of them.

In closing, this is also very early but, our "Joe Hunt" Huntmaster, Kevin Seymour has asked to be replaced after several years of topnotch work.

Kevin is a lifelong friend of mine and we all owe him a big thanks for stepping up to the plate all of these years. Rick Miotke put out the word, three weeks ago, I also sent out some emails and it looks like we have filled a very important vacancy in less than a month.

Work hard! Think hard! Play hard!

Mark

A word from our State Treasurer:

Please let all chapters know that they should submit their semi-annual report to the State Treasurer by July 31. Thanks.

Submitted by Tony Biasi, tonybiasi@yahoo.com

News from our Vice-President1:

It's been busy behind the scenes recently for KAMO. LOTS of good news to share:

We have received both state and federal approval for the grant I applied for through the WI DNR's Hunting Heritage grant program. Still some details to be worked out, and nothing has been received yet, but great news to hear we are approved!!!! I have had one person step forward from the Lake WI chapter to assist, but would still love to have one or two more people who are good at accounting and excel spreadsheet databases to assist me in setting up some of the stuff we will be required to track with our grant. Contact me if interested.

We have an individual who has a child involved in KAMO who has been involved in grant writing and other administrative stuff with some large non-profit organizations who has approached KAMO about helping us out. We are talking with her about how she can help, and I am excited about the expertise she has to offer. Thanks to Mike Brown on that one!!! Good work Mike.

We also have a social media and marketing specialist who works with Pete McCormick, our 2nd VP, who has expressed some interest in helping KAMO. I haven't sat down with him to talk yet, but again excited about what he can offer us.

I'm also moving forward with the Central WI chapter, not official yet but put the word out if you know anyone in the area of Marshfield-Stevens Point-WI Rapids to contact me.

Ben Gruber

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Kids and Mentors Outdoors, Vice President1

www.kamokids.org

KAMO on Facebook

<<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kids-and-Mentors-Outdoors-KAMO/250630841738867>>

News from the Baraboo River Chapter:

The Baraboo River chapter had its latest meeting at River's Edge Resort on June 13. Our mentors have taken kids fishing, camping, and even making minnow traps. We recently teamed up with the Lake Wisconsin chapter for a fishing night and cookout. We did have 8 kids show up and try their luck off the public pier in Merrimac's Memorial park. The fish were biting but hard to hook, but they did manage a few bluegills. We gave Jeff Rouse 30+ sheepshead from previous fishing outings for Soaring Eagle bird rehab. We will be setting up as a food vendor for the Poynette Area Family Fun Festival on June 25 from 10-4, but also trying to attract kids and mentors for both the Baraboo and Lake WI chapters. On a sad note, Kevin Seymour would like to pass on the torch as Huntmaster for "The Joe", so we are trying to find someone that could fill such big shoes. No matter what happens we will continue to move forward with the hunt as planned. For those chapters wishing to participate this year, it is never too early to start thinking of a young girl or boy to bring and spending some time getting to know them over these

summer months. With the Wisconsin Dells getting much busier now, we will be having our next meeting at one of our mentors homes with the focus on bringing a potential new mentor.

Tradition Forward

Rick Miotke

News from the Coulee Chapter:

Our group repeated its Fishing Day on Lake Onalaska on Saturday, June 4th. Two pontoons and one boat were launched for fishing and we had the shelter all to ourselves at Nelson Park. We had 15 kids and nine adults present including several new kids. Fish were caught by most kids. We had a fish cleaning demonstration and brat fry picnic at the end. All kids got to make up their own small tackle boxes.

KAMO set up a table for the West Salem Rod and Gun Club Youth Day on Saturday, June 18th in which game calls were demonstrated. One kid went to Chaseburg's Youth Trap Day series to shoot trap with his mentor.

We are gearing up for our Tuesday, June 21st annual pontoon ride event which is open to the public and has been heavily advertised. We have 9 pontoons available. Participants will get a ride past the downtown area and back from the West Clinton Street Landings. They will have the opportunity to sign up for other events and to be put on our mailing list. This is probably our signature event of the year.

Our group is spending the last of the Franke grant dollar on outdoor gear. We just purchased camping and fishing equipment and will buy rain suits, wind breakers, and cold weather gear next. We just submitted another grant to cover our general operating expenses for the next few years.

We are trying to coordinate camping events at local parks. Perrot Park (and other state parks) allow non-profit groups to come in for a cost of \$10.00 per night no matter how many tents are set up. We plan to take advantage of this in July and August and run events day and night for two to three day stints for those who want to come just to visit for a while or to stay. We will fly kites, teach orienteering, hike, fish, and enjoy the amenities of the facility such as the classroom displays there.

Submitted by Mike Brown

News from Mike Brown about the Coulee Chapter Mentor Handbook:

I have been working on a mentor handbook and have it "finished". It is comprehensive and contains much information about what we have learned about operating a chapter. It contains sections intended for new and existing mentors, parents. And agencies. It has information about how to set up activities, suggestions for being a good mentor, what the state's insurance covers, what to do with kids, and more. You are welcome make use of it in your chapters, but you would have to revise it to meet the needs of your chapter first. If you would like, I can send it electronically upon request. My e-mail is brownmtjc@gmail.com

News from the Indianhead Chapter:

At our meeting with 4H on our joint grant of \$700 from Give365, we encouraged Laurie Stein, Dan Petras, and Dan Isham of 4H to purchase pellet traps and pellet guns as necessary to lay groundwork for a shooting sports 4H program; half the grant money would still be available for future necessities. Our KAMO group would offer help when requested.

We will offer archery at the 4H camp on Wednesday, July 13 and fishing techniques there on July 13 and 14; we are looking forward to trying out Lobster's improvements on our bows. We will be lining up people to help sell concessions at the Mardi Gras on July 17. We are already excited about our second annual canoe/camping trip on the Chippewa on July 23 and 24.

Donna and Jim had a nice visit with Jaren Tauschmann at Camp La Feber. It is obvious why the camp with its wonderful setting, lakes, and facilities should be kept for use by youth, especially by youth in metropolitan areas. We have very nice places much closer and probably cheaper for youth in our area and thus will probably not camp at La Feber, much as we would like to help them.

Submitted by Jim Kurz

No news from Lake Wisconsin Chapter:

News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:

We are going to be having a camping trip July 15th through the 17th at Wilderness Park on Lake Petenwell. This is an annual trip that we make and is always well attended. Activities include tubing, carp shooting, swimming, fishing and lots of good food and fun around the fire.

Submitted by Aaron Bigalke

No news from the Northwoods Chapter until July