

## KAMO Newsletter for February, 2017

Hello KAMO members,

This is KAMO President Mark Walters with my monthly update. First off, Happy Birthday to KAMO! Folks as of March 1st we are ten-years old. Sometimes it may seem like things happen rather slowly in KAMO but as we hit our tenth birthday I have never seen things quite as optimistic for KAMO as I do right now. Ten years ago the first round of meetings Ladysmith, Florence, Wisconsin Dells took place and holy moly have we been getting the job done.

Sometimes it may seem like we are just taking baby steps but between our 7 chapters we are literally in constant forward motion with our goal of kids into the outdoors.

With that being said, by March 8<sup>th</sup>, at the latest I will need your votes for the annual Presidents Award for KAMO Member of the year. This award is presented to the KAMO member who gets the most votes from his or her peers for their KAMO activity. Our state meeting is March 18th and I have to give Total Trophy in Tomah time to create the plaque.

Speaking of the state meeting. Everyone that has gone to this annual event is aware of how important it is. We run an organization that takes kids hunting and on many outdoor events. We are growing and this one time a year we put our heads together to create our path; please come to The Meade Wildlife Area headquarters on Saturday, March 18th. PLEASE TELL EVERYONE THAT YOU KNOW!

Ben Gruber needs your input for the agenda, both state meeting and BOD meeting wise. Ben also needs to know what your chapter is bringing for our potluck dinner. Remember, this meeting is a bit different than the past. We are meeting at a beautiful location that is about 20 minutes east of Stevens Point just north of Highway 10. It is a WDNR visitors center and local headquarters in a beautiful setting.

As`always, I would like to say thank you for everything that you do for KAMO!

**Mark**

**News from Our Vice President:**

All I have is a reminder to anyone coming to the state meeting: Let me know if you are bringing a dish to pass and if so, what it is.

**Ben Gruber, [bwgruber@gmail.com](mailto:bwgruber@gmail.com)**

**No news from the Baraboo Chapter this month.**

#### **News from the Coulee Chapter:**

Our group arranged for the DNR to conduct an Internet Field Day Hunters Education Certification training in Onalaska. Four Coulee mentors, a group from Marshfield, and a third group from Hudson completed their certification. The DNR also distributed gun sets, laser rifles, and other training equipment. The Coulee group is going to do their first internet field day hunter's education class on Monday, June 19th.

Some mentors took kids to a La Crosse Chill Hockey game in February. Members of BB/BS and Boys and Girls also joined us. We took groups out ice fishing twice: Once partnering with a church group in the bays behind Nutbush on the Black River in Onalaska and once at the Genoa Fish Hatchery. Fishing was slow at both events, but the kids were kids and made up for it by playing on the ice and enjoying hot dogs, chili, and hot chocolate.

We are taking some families to the International Festival of Owls on March 4th, and to an archery day on April 1st. We would like to take some kids out turkey hunting, but it's a matter of mentor availability.

Our chapter has stopped taking in kids for the time being. We have had dozens of families apply to get their kids in KAMO in the past year, while at the same time we have seen mentors come and go leaving that number relatively stagnant.. Several of our mentors have been unusually tied

up with travel, home projects, careers, education, health issues, and more. We are at a crucial stage in our group's existence - how can we sustain what we have? Where do we go from here?

**Submitted by Mike Brown**

### **News from the Indianhead Chapter:**

On the weekend of February 10, 11, and 12, we invited the world to come ice fishing any time during the weekend on Amacoy Lake, south of Bruce about 8 miles. Floyd set up his 2 big shelters on Thursday night the 9<sup>th</sup>, and he, his grandson Matt and nephew Chuck spent the nights of Friday and Saturday on the ice. They started catching fish early Saturday morning and it continued with a good bite pretty much all day, bluegills, crappie, perch, and one 25 inch northern ON A JIG POLE! 55 kids and 13 adults stopped by, including 3 new families and about 24 international students from the North Cedar Academy. Our newest mentor Louis and his son Giles stepped right up and helped immensely.

We set our calendar for the rest of the year which should be available on the web site, starting with a moon-light hike on the night of March 11 and with four or five of us coming to the KAMO members meeting on March 18.

**Submitted by Jim Kurz**

### **News from the Lake Wisconsin Chapter:**

A few of our mentors have gotten kids out ice fishing; as far as a chapter ice fishing day we're hoping the ice holds out for Feb 25th, forecast isn't looking good.

We're in the planning stages for some summer activities including a canoeing/camping trip and a booth at our local festival June 24th to show youth some Shooting/Archery and Fishing techniques. We are open to any suggestions on how we could set this up to educate and inform the community of what KAMO is about while having fun. Enjoy the weather!! Tradition Forward!!

Submitted by Bob and Linda Brodeur

### **News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:**

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> the Meadow Valley Chapter had their annual Ice Fishing Day on Bigalke's pond. The morning started off with a fast and furious bite and the kids were able to ice a nice batch of panfish. As the morning progressed the bite slowed down a little but we were able to make a move and find another batch of fish. As the kids continued to catch fish Aaron and Bob filleted a good number and prepped them for the fryer. We also had wood duck house pieces that the New Lisbon Tech Ed class cut out for us. When the kids wanted a break from fishing they were able to hop on shore and put together a wood duck house. We will be hanging the completed wood duck houses in the Buckhorn State Park. This was a project suggested by Elaine Stecker-Kochanski that we were excited to work on. To finish off the day we all gathered on shore and ate hot dogs that Janine had cooked as well as everyone had the chance to eat some fresh fried fish from the mornings bounty.

**Submitted by Aaron Bigalke**

### **News from the Northwoods Chapter:**

Meeting held Feb 15th...six members attending. Financially, we have had a nice start to the year. We participated in a local predator hunt, held for our benefit, back in January. All the proceeds went to our Northwoods chapter along with a few holiday donations back in December. This past weekend we worked the concession stand at our local ski hill and raised a few more funds.

We are still in the process of purchasing a mobile brat wagon to be used by all the youth groups for their particular fundraising events. We now feel confident that having the above said funding, we can finally pull this off.

Also discussed was funding for our scholarship program which we started in 2016. The scholarship will be awarded to anyone going into the environmental sciences.

We made plans and discussed the up-coming State meeting and what we need to accomplish when we are there.

Warm weather this weekend...making room for more snow this Spring.

**Submitted by Mick Mlinar**