

KAMO Newsletter for September 2017

Hello to all KAMO Members!

This is KAMO President Mark Walters with my monthly part of The Newsletter. I have been helping a family member in Louisiana and have to apologize for being a bit preoccupied lately. Back in August Jim Kurz sent out a unique logo (silhouette art of a KAMO hike) that could potentially be used for KAMO along with our main one and I have to admit I really like it.

One of our two Vice Presidents has been on two hunting trips that gobbled up three weeks of his life and I want to say congrats Bob on your 7x7 bull elk and that is another reason that KAMO leadership has been a bit quiet this month.

On September 16th I joined Ben Gruber of The Marsh/Point Chapter and another member as they took two young hunters on their first waterfowl hunt and I once again saw why we do what we do. These kids had a blast, one of them harvested their first duck and it would appear that KAMO's newest chapter is doing quite well.

On the Joe, please understand how important it is to work with Rick, Bob and especially Steve Stine for the early preparation for the task of making this a successful hunt.

I am heading over to the Mississippi River for a duck hunt and camping trip that I first took part in with my father 46-years ago.

As always thank you for all that you do for KAMO!

Mark

Mentoring tip of the month for October:

On October 1st the whitetail bucks in Wisconsin will still be running together. By the last day in October they will be engaged in an endless array of battles with each other that will cost some their lives and most 15 to 20 percent of their body weight. The loss of body weight during the rut is the reason that after fawns, mature bucks are next in line to fall victim to a harsh Wisconsin winter.

I say take a kid out and help them enjoy either Wisconsin's Youth Deer Hunt that will be held on October 6th and 7th or help them to spend time with a bow and arrow during the entire month as they enjoy watching autumn become colder.

Mentoring Tip Submitted by Mark Walters

HRD3 Grant

Thank you awesome KAMO Mentors for getting your volunteer hour sheets to be in such a timely fashion!! I was able to gather the necessary paperwork to submit the quarterly reimbursement request. Please continue to keep track of your volunteer hours, especially with the upcoming Joe Hunt.

Submitted by Donna Wishowski

News from the Baraboo Chapter:

The Baraboo River chapter had their latest meeting on Sept 14 at Rivers Edge resort. Our mentors got out with kids doing some canoeing and boating during the nice weather. Much of our meeting was discussing the Joe Hunt as it won't be long until the event. Kevin Seymour has put together a Joe Hunt packet that includes all the permission slips and hunt checklist that we can give to the parents. We have set our training day as Saturday October 21 from 9am- 12 noon. I know our kid list seems to always change up to the days of the event, but one thing we must submit to the DNR a month before the LTH is a list of mentors, so any chapter that is sending mentors this year please get me the new Mentor Forms by November 1 and if they have not mentored before, they have to get the DNR mentor background check forms in by Oct. 7. As you get your forms completed, please send them to me at "ramiotke65@yahoo.com." A few of our mentors were getting some kids together for the youth duck hunt. Had the opportunity to help teach a hunter's safety course this month and got 36 new kids and adults ready for the upcoming season. This is a great time of year as so many hunting seasons will be opening up. Tradition Forward!

Submitted by Rick Miotke

News from the Coulee Chapter:

Some of Coulee's mentors helped coordinate the activity day at the Upper Midwest Environmental Services Center on Brice Prairie on September 9th, which had a science, technology, engineering, and math theme (STEM). The event was attended by the general public and a few KAMO families.

Tim Collins and John Wetzel took their kids out for the Youth Waterfowl Hunting weekend. During the same weekend Mike and his 14-year-old assistant, Ken, ran a scavenger hunt/ kite construction - flying event for a younger silent sports group at Myrick Hixon Park in La Crosse. These are two activities that work terrifically together. Kids searched for items in the park, then switched over to constructing paper kites out of a kit (Drachen) and flying them. While they were flying their newly constructed kites, Ken re-set up a scavenger hunt and we did a second round. In terms of getting excited kids running around and having smiles on everyone's faces, these two activities combined with a little snack food on the side are a premium product.

Our BB/BS (Bog Brothers, Big Sisters) partners and I planned out potential silent sports activities through January. These included a corn maze trip in West Salem, tubing at Whitetail Ski Hill at Fort Mc Coy, and the rental of a wellness facility gym during the winter. The gym rental would allow kids to burn off some steam and would give KAMO an opportunity to set up activities such as a fish casting station, archery, or some other outdoor themed station.

We are approaching our camping/ hunting combo trip at the Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area for the youth deer gun season. The group size is currently 16 for that event. Parents and kids who are not directly involved in hunting will serve as camp hosts and there is also good panfishing in the area.

Rose and I have been planning on a regular basis. If all chapters can provide the parent contact info we asked for, that will be a strong start for state-level grant applications. There will be a couple other things as well as mentioned in another part of this newsletter. Coulee has had a strong grant year through local sources and the state's prospects should be solid as well.

The KAMO outdoor general discussion thread on Lake-link.com has been viewed over 30,000 total times - about 750 views per week. Please consider posting to it.

Submitted by Mike Brown

Update on state grant activity

Rose Reinert and Mike Brown (we) have been meeting regularly to discuss some strategies for obtaining funding for the state. The requested amounts will be \$10,000 or more.

We will need to gather some data upfront. We will make this easy for you and will provide instructions. To begin with, we have developed a Parent Survey that should capture some of this information to start with. It is a little more comprehensive than a survey sent to several people a couple months ago. If each chapter can provide us with parent contact information, we will send out the survey for the whole state from here (Coulee) and will retrieve the information.

We've already done this with several Coulee parents. It does take sending out and reminder e-mails/calls to those parents after sending the survey to them, but we got 100% feedback and that feedback was very positive.

Here's what we would like you to do at your next convenience (we realize we are still working the R-3 grant and it is hunting season):

Identify past and current KAMO parents that have had kids in your activities over the past years, especially those who have been around for a while.

Send us these parents names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Send that information to me at brownmtjc@gmail.com and when I have collected it all from your chapter, Rose and I will take it from there.

If we act on this survey now, it will probably take a few months to get all the results back putting us out to the end of the year.

When life slows down for everyone after Christmas and New Year's we can talk about a couple other things we will need each chapter to provide, and again, that will be made easy for you. Perhaps each chapter should have a designated person to work with us.

At the end of all this gathering of data, which we're hoping to wrap up around mid-February, we should then be in position to be taken seriously by the donors that have the potential to take KAMO to another level and can talk about the applications we've made at the 2018 state convention.

Thanks

Mike Brown

News from the Indianhead Chapter:

Being the wise outdoor adventurers, we think we are, we met last December to plan a Moonlight Hike for 7:00-9:00 p.m. Sept. 9, 2017. The scene was set, the moon was seen to be nearly full the night before, the campfire started, hotdogs and smores were ready to be made!

All went well, KAMO mentors arrived, people began to gather. BUT. there was one detail we did not consider last December: The moon keeps moving to the east, more each day; thus, if you wait a few days after the night that the moon is full, the moon does not appear until later; that night the moon did not rise until about 9:00 p.m.! Our Moonlight Hike became a 'moonless hike'. (Better to schedule the hike a few days before rather than after

full moon.) But despite that little detail, everyone enjoyed hiking, calling owls, the digital microscope, the campfire, making their own hotdog and smore, stories and laughter. You just can't go wrong at a KAMO event!

Upcoming plans on October 14th are to hike about 3 miles along Hemlock Creek near the Murphy Flowage Picnic Area in the Blue Hills and enjoy some outdoor cooking in cast iron kettles.

It is hard to anticipate all the results of your actions. Right now, there is a 7-foot-tall picture of our pontoon boat fishing outing last summer with the Chinese kids from the local North Cedar Academy; it is stuck to a wall at their school!

Submitted by Donna Wishowski and Jim Kurz

No news this month from the Lake Wisconsin Chapter.

News from the MarshPoint Chapter:

Our chapter is chugging away. We are at a good spot, with 3-5 solid mentors that have been at every meeting for the last few months. I have 3-4 new mentors that have committed in the last 4 days, all good solid people that I know already. We have a retired community member with experience in non-profit administration and fundraising that has been to a few meetings and committed to helping our chapter. We did a fundraiser cookout at the Muddy Waters Hunting Retriever Club and got many questions about KAMO and lots of positive feedback. A lady who owns a large dog training facility that was part of that event has agreed to allow us to utilize her private (and heavily stocked) ponds for an ice fishing outing this winter. Mark and I and another MarshPoint mentor just took 2 of our kids out for the youth duck hunt. I had both of those kids out shooting the week prior, utilizing equipment from the DNR's wingshooting program (our chapter has 3 certified wingshooting instructors). Our kid list is rapidly growing, with 10 on the books and a few more asking questions. One of our new members has committed to running a turkey LTH this spring, and he has experience doing it. We have set the date for 2018's waterfowl hunting clinic. It will be Aug 18-19 at the Mead Wildlife area. Consider sending any interested kids and mentors, as this is one of the best waterfowl hunting clinic you will find. We have been doing it for years, with KAMO recently taking over running it. We have some camping available.

A lady contacted me the other day, she recently moved to Wausau from Milwaukee. Her daughter is interested in the outdoors. The mother works for Lutheran Social Services, and had a social worker there recommend KAMO as a great program for that. I just wanted to point out that word is getting out there in many circles about KAMO.

Submitted by Ben Gruber

No news this month from the Meadow Valley Chapter.

The Northwoods Chapter is getting ready for their October pheasant shoot.

