

20th International Scout Rally Draws 1,000 Participants to Hessel Woods



Les Cheneaux Lions Club member Herb Melcher (right) and his brother, Edward Melcher of Ontario, slice one of the five deep fried turkeys cooked and donated to the 20th International Scout Rally by Troop 346 of Negaunee Township. The Melchers and several other scout leaders and assistants prepare meals throughout the three days of the rally in a camp kitchen that rivals the size of a restaurant kitchen; it needs to be that big to feed the hundreds of scouts at Bay City Lake. Stoves are even brought in and set up under tents.

By Amy Polk

As scout leaders cook supper in a makeshift outdoor kitchen, a tall wizard strolls by. He is soon followed by giggling girls in poodle skirts, then pirates, policemen, and a fairy with cotton-candy pink wings.

The characters are headed to a performance at the edge of the lake at Bay City lake Campground in Hessel. They are in a costume and skit competition at the 20th Annual International Scout Rally, which has taken place at this site every third weekend in September.

An estimated 1,000 scouts and leaders made it to the rally

September 15 through September 17. The International Rally joins scouts from Canada and the United States to share cultures and the scouting tradition.

Boy Scout Troop 140 of Les Cheneaux coordinates the event, led by Dale Streichert of Cedarville, John Kenn of DeTour, and members of the Les Cheneaux Lions Club, which sponsors the troop. Lions President Judy Izzard is one of the volunteers.

"It's a great event that unites people of two countries, and happens because of the cooperation of a lot of dedicated volunteers," she said.



Portraying a stern looking Benjamin Franklin, Mary Ascher, a Cub Scout leader from Suring, Wisconsin, keeps track of acts and introduces troops during the costume and skit competition at the 20th Annual International Scout Rally. Ms. Ascher and her troop traveled more than six hours to the rally.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America represent the United States at the rally, while Girl Guides and Canadian Scouts are represented by scouts from Ontario. This year's theme was to incorporate as many themes from the past 19 years into this year's celebration. That proved an enjoyable task for the troops, who had to choose from themes like Medieval Days, favorite television



The "Hollywood Hotties," (at right) portrayed by Girl Scout Troop 290 of Petoskey, sing and dance before an audience of hundreds of scouts at the costume and skit competition Saturday afternoon, September 16, at Bay City Lake state campground in Hessel. The event was one of several competitions held throughout the three-day rally to teach skills and encourage friendly competition among the scouts. The costume and skit event is one of the more popular events, held at the end of the rally.

shows, the Wizard of Oz, Pirate Days, covered wagons, and the history of scouting.

Some of the traditional, practical outdoor skills are evident in the International Scout Rally, where

nearly 30 activities are brought by participating troops. The activities are designed to teach endurance and survival and include knot tying, climbing, and cooking. Activities culminate in a youth dance for all the

scouts Saturday evening. Everything takes place outdoors.

Next year's theme is Nursery Rhymes, and scouts plan to meet at the lake again Friday, September 14, to Sunday, September 16.

Letters to the Editor

Residents, Businesses Must Be Aware of Break-ins, Vandalism

To the Editor:

I keep thinking about the letter I read a few weeks ago, from Mr. and Mrs. McLeod about flags that were stolen from their front yard, and how they thought it was such an awful and unpatriotic thing for someone to do.

I do agree with them, it was awful, but I don't believe it an unpatriotic act it was just a mindless act of someone who took it just

because they could or no one told them they shouldn't. I wonder if Mr. and Mrs. McLeod (for that matter, I wonder how many people in our area) are aware of how many of these type acts, and much worse, are taking place.

My home was broken into, the door kicked in; they went through my belongings and stole money and things that can never be replaced.

Williams Will Be Effective on Island State Park Commission

To the Editor:

I applaud Governor Granholm's appointment of Father Jim Williams to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Father Jim is a real history buff and he will be a very effective addition to the Park Commission.

Thinking Father Jim Williams

doesn't know what is happening in Mackinaw City is a real joke. To Mr. Robert Heilman and Mr. Kenneth Teysen, I say, "sour grapes!"

Congratulations, Father Jim.

Rosemary Charnes
Mackinac Island and
Indianapolis

When I talk to others in this area, I'm shocked at how many have also been broke into or vandalized in some way. Maybe if I had been aware of this I would not have been so trusting to think by locking my door, my things were safe.

A week ago a group of kids decided to have a party at a home. Now it started innocently, just a few kids playing hoops and a few others inside talking, but more kids showed up and then someone brought alcohol and next there was a fight, things were broken, holes were punched in walls. It spilled into the street with more fighting and loud profanities.

Now not one of these kids had any reason to be in this home, none lived there, and the person who did live there invited none. Why were they there? Because no one told them they shouldn't. Not one of them cared whose home it was, or

questioned if they should be there, because no one said they shouldn't.

My home was broken into last April, and there were many before mine and many since. I just want everyone to become aware that nothing is safe, not your business, not your home, not even an American flag placed on your lawn as a patriotic act.

I hope more people will write to the paper and tell if they had any such acts against them. We need to make everyone aware of the alarming amount of break-ins and vandalism in our community. Also, we need to become more alert and watch for any suspicious activity.

Let your neighbors know if you're away, to keep an eye on your home and to watch theirs. We need to help the police catch these people. Perhaps then people will learn what they shouldn't do.

Kathy Mudloff
Cedarville

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Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we sometimes add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

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Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$32.80.

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Lousy Action on Great Lakes Issues

Here we go again with much talk but minimal action on long-promised substantial funding for Great Lakes cleanup and restoration.

At turn-of-the-century national political conventions, Michigan Democrats and Republicans managed to get platform language supporting federal efforts to give as much sustained action for the Great Lakes as was given to the Florida Everglades.

President George W. Bush, after an election-year commitment, set things in motion, assigning Interior Secretary Gale Norton and others to a cabinet-level task force to develop a coordinated federal-state effort.

I was impressed, during an interview with Norton at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy on the shore of Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay, with the planned efforts and commitments she cited. She subsequently left the administration.

Environmental Protection Administrator Michael Leavitt, former governor of Utah, later led the task force. In a phone interview, he called it his highest priority. No longer. He's now secretary of health and human services.

With considerable fanfare, a cooperative agreement was signed at a Chicago ceremony involving federal officials, Great Lakes governors, the International Joint Commission, and such stakeholders as the Little Traverse Bands of Odawa Indians and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

So there's a structure of sorts – but insufficient resources to deal with invasive species, improve water quality, curtail contamination, and improve water quality.

Democratic Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, as well as Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee) (second to none in miles of shoreline he represents), have been pressing for action on a five-year, \$20 billion plan to restore the lakes, seeking an initial \$300 million to combat invasive species, pollutants, and other issues.

On Friday, Stabenow said through her Washington office: "Whether he's refusing to meet with our automakers or backing away from his pledge to protect the Great Lakes, it's clear President Bush just doesn't get what's important to Michigan. It is absolutely unacceptable that two years after the President announced his Great Lakes Initiative, Michigan has still not received the funding or support from the administration that we need."

Nor from Congress, where combined clout of delegations from Great Lakes states is but a flimsy reed.

Stabenow's Republican challenger, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard, joins in the criticism of GOP-ruled Washington on the issue. Lack of adequate Great Lakes funding "drives me crazy," he told me last week while campaigning in Traverse City. "It is another reason we need a senator in Washington that can have an impact."

Bouchard nailed it in declaring the Great Lakes "perilously close" to invasion of nasty foreign carp from the Mississippi River basin if long-sought underwater electric fences are not constructed. Those aggressive fish have been known to leap into small boats, sometimes slapping at occupants. How about slapping some sense into occupants of Capitol Hill?

While there's little prospect of action this year on the comprehensive Great Lakes plan, Stupak said Friday of the lesser effort, "there appears to be promise for moving the Great Lakes Restoration Act in the near term. The bill has passed the Senate and would authorize \$20 million for grant programs to restore fish and wildlife habitats."

A Court Victory

In March 2005, a U.S. District Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency's refusal to regulate ballast water discharges under the Clean Water Act was inconsistent with the law.

The EPA then sought a delay, over objections of Attorney General (AG) Mike Cox and five other AGs from the Great Lakes who seek protection of the lakes from introduction of further invasive species through discharges that wreak havoc on the ecosystem.

Last week, the court ruled with the AGs, ordering EPA to regulate discharges within two years.

Cox hailed the ruling, vowing Michigan "will ensure that this deadline is met."

Ongoing Canadian Issue

In Washington and Lansing, lawmakers from both parties have long grappled with how to deal with trash, pollution, and other issues involving neighbor Canada.

So it is with Democratic Congressman Stupak and State Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City), on the lingering issue of sewage and other toxic spills from Canada.

Stupak, saying bacteria counts of discharges in the St. Marys River "are once again off the charts," wrote Canadian officials seeking action "immediately to implement water quality monitoring and other measures to resolve the problem."

Allen, whose district includes Chippewa County, has introduced a bill to establish "a council charged with addressing water quality issues that cross state and international jurisdictional boundaries." It would include "environmental and public health officials from state and local government and Canadian provinces."

Given the complications of a state legislature setting up a cross-border council, it appears to be a noble idea likely to come to naught.

Michigan, Ontario, and the two federal governments will be seeking good ways to address their border issues long after Allen and Stupak leave office.

George Weeks retired this year after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.