



Headlines from the hills

The **Tuscazoar slide show** is available for banquets, courts of honor, reunions or other year-end group activities. This 20-minute program traces the history of Camp Tuscazoar and includes dozens of historical photos. We can also include a presentation on our maple syrup operation. If your group is interested in seeing this presentation, please contact the camp well in advance to make arrangements. A donation for this free showing would be appreciated to help cover our costs.

Believe it or not, it will soon be time for our annual pig weekend this fall. The **Pig Gig Campout** is scheduled for Sept. 10-12, with the **Pig Roast Fund-Raiser** on Sept. 11 and 12. Mark your calendars!

Several groups have left camp recently without leaving any **firewood** for the next group. If you will be burning wood for fires during your stay, please plan to cut wood to leave for those who follow. Thanks!

From forestry to flood control; don't miss Dover Dam Weekend

Camp Tuscazoar's annual Dover Dam Weekend April 30 to May 2 will feature forest management events and programs. Not only does our forest provide a home for the camp's abundant wildlife, but humans have long used its resources for building and heating homes, crafting iron tools, carving canoes and producing food.

A variety of forest management activities will entertain and educate visitors, including a conservation project, forestry presentation, scavenger hunt, demonstration on maple syrup production, a look at the camp forest from past to present, and other special events to be announced.

Boy Scouts participating in the activities will be able to earn their Forestry merit badge, and should bring a merit badge book, notebook or notepad, pencil or pen, and a merit badge card signed by the Scoutmaster. Each patrol should bring a small trash bag.

Programs will be offered for Cub Scouts as well. Each Cub den should bring a small cloth bag and small trash bag. Cubs should each have their Cub Scout or Webelos handbook, a notebook or notepad, and a pencil or pen.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will once again lead tours of Dover Dam. The dam was built in the 1930's to provide flood control for towns and farms along the Tuscarawas River. On the hillside above the dam is Buzzard's Roost, which is always a popular spot to visit either before or after a tour of the dam.

Check-in will begin Saturday morning from 8:30 to 9 a.m. The organized events will begin at flag-raising and will conclude with an evening campfire program at the Hoover Lodge amphitheater.

Campsites are still available. The \$7 per person activity fee includes all camp events, a souvenir patch and a delicious BBQ pork dinner Saturday evening. Camping fees are additional. Groups can also attend the Saturday-only activities (no BBQ dinner) for \$4 per person. For more information, call 330-859-2288 or visit www.tuscazoar.org for additional updates.



April 30 to May 2

Help support historic Camp Tuscazoar!

**PURE, OLD-FASHIONED
MAPLE SYRUP**

NOW ON SALE

\$8 per 8 oz. bottle

Produced in the hills of Camp Tuscazoar

For information, call 330-859-2288

Tuscazoar events, programs and activities

For reservations or additional information, contact Camp Tuscazoar at 330-859-2288

Maple Days festival draws a crowd

More than 400 pancake breakfasts were served during the camp's first-ever Maple Days festival in March.

Warmer temperatures encouraged visitors to make the journey to camp to try our maple syrup and to learn more about the production process.

Throughout the weekend, Mike Roberts led tours of the camp's sugar shack and explained how the evaporator could turn 40 gallons of sap into one gallon of syrup. Many visitors even ventured down the hill to view the collection tanks and the maze of lines snaking through the woods.

Many guests said this was their first visit to the camp. And several purchased entire cases of the camp's syrup. And, as always, Bob Spencer made sure everyone left the dining hall with a full stomach.

The Maple Days festival is off to a great start and we're already looking forward to next year's event. Spread the word!



Mike Roberts (right) explains how the syrup production process works.



The camp's sugar shack in operation

Maple syrup production now under way at Camp Tuscazoar

Camp Tuscazoar is officially in the maple syrup business. The first bottles of pure, old-fashioned maple syrup were produced in late February. Production will continue to the end of March. By the time the season ends, the camp hopes to have produced 300 to 400 gallons of maple syrup. Proceeds from syrup sales will generate needed income for the camp.

Approximately 1,000 taps have been plugged into maple trees in the Netawatwes Brook valley at the northern end of camp. With the aid of a vacuum pump, several miles of plastic lines are transporting the sap to holding tanks near the railroad tunnel. From there, the sap is being pumped up to the dining hall for processing. Several dozen buckets have also been placed on maple trees in camp to assist with sap collection.

The cooking shelter behind the dining hall has been enclosed to provide a sugar shack for converting the sap to maple syrup. Once the water has been evaporated out of the sap, the maple syrup is being poured into 8 oz. containers for sale to the public.

Syrup can now be purchased at \$8 per bottle. The syrup will be available at the camp on weekends and at upcoming camp events. Plans are also underway to offer syrup sales through the camp website at www.tuscazoar.org.

Mike Roberts, vice-president of the Foundation, has led the effort to set up the syrup production system at camp, along with the assistance of our two interns from the Student Conservation Association, Chip Tabor and Adam Vasey.

We owe them, along with Patti Roberts, Dave Tschantz, Dana Powers, Dan Gier, Bob Lahmers, Byron Roubanes, and the many others who have assisted with this project, a big debt of gratitude.

Help is still needed for teardown and cleaning. If you would be interested in helping with this important project, please contact the camp at 330-859-2288 or e-mail us at camptuscazoar@aol.com.



Taps and lines transport sap to waiting tanks

A day later and a Pipestone short - a Tuscazoar memory

By John Dorosky

I was lucky enough to have spent a week at Camp Tuscazoar each year from 1950 through 1956. They were thoroughly enjoyable, except for one miserable experience on Friday, August 3, 1951.

My last requirement to earn the second-year Pipestone was to complete the swimming merit badge. Since that skill had always come natural, it didn't occur to me to read the book on the subject. No one else was in or around the pool at the time, except for the lifeguard. He was perched in his chair on a short tower. My final task was to jump in the pool with my jeans on, remove them while treading water, tie the legs in a knot and inflate them to provide a flotation device. This I attempted to accomplish with the biggest puff of air my lungs could muster.

It didn't work. The lifeguard, a Tuscazoar staff employee, silently stared ahead. It was devastating not to be able to join my fellow scouts that night as they went to the Pipestone Ceremony. I vowed never to return to Tuscazoar.

But fortune intervened. Someone other than the lifeguard had overheard that I had failed to inflate the jeans and explained how it's done. The next morning, I went back to the pool with jeans on over my swimsuit, jumped in, took the jeans off, tied the legs together and, while holding each side of the open end in each hand, flung the pants in the air.

It worked. I earned the swimming merit badge - a day late and a Pipestone short. I continued to come back each year up through 1956, earning the fifth-year Pipestone from Chief Deaver and then earning the John Burrough's Award - my own toothbrush handle. Today I use an electric model. How would that look on the uniform?

I have that lifeguard's signature on the blue Application for Merit Badge card. If I ever meet up with him, he will learn how his indifference almost ruined my future in scouting.

One of those years, probably in '52 or '53, there was a forest fire on camp property. Some of us were driven to the site to help put it out. Actually, most of it was out by the time we got to it, but we walked through the debris with shovels looking for live embers.

There were a number of dedicated leaders who made sure we could enjoy scouting as members of Troop 1 in North Canton, Ohio. The most outstanding were our scoutmaster, Kenny Oberlin and two assistant scoutmasters, DeVere Kaufman and Phil Stahler. I don't recall how long Phil Stahler was there (as long as I can remember anyway), but Kenny was a scoutmaster for 37 years and DeVere was in scouting literally from Day 1, 1910. We all believed that they were the true Wise Men. Of course, there is no way that they or any of the other scout leaders could have accomplished what they did without the constant understanding and support of their wives. For this, we are forever grateful.

Have a memory you would like to share? Email us at camptuscazoar@aol.com or send a note to us at: Camp Tuscazoar Memories; PO Box 308; Zoarville OH 44656-0308



In the 1930's and 1940's, Camp Tuscazoar operated its own sawmill at the present-day Turtle Campsite.

Camp was built strong with its own timber

Dover Dam Weekend is fast approaching, and the 2004 event theme is FORESTRY. So, we'd be remiss if we didn't share more fascinating Camp Tuscazoar pictures on this very topic. Did you know that Camp Tuscazoar's forest provided much more than a place to hike and camp? During the 1930's and '40's Camp Tuscazoar had its own working sawmill. Camp trees were felled regularly and sawed into planking for the construction of camp buildings. Back then many smaller buildings were built for craft houses and shelter camping. They often only got tar paper for roofing; doors and windows were minor concerns. In the woods these crudely built structures might have only lasted several years. Then, they were stripped and the good lumber was reused to build again. A forest that is cared for grows strong and yields plenty, just as young Scouts become fine adults and citizens. Learn it well and it will serve you forever: "Use your resources."



Logs are ready to be cut into lumber at the Camp Tuscazoar sawmill.

Camp Tuscazoar Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308
Zoarville, OH 44656-0308

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Cash back programs continue at Acme, GFS

Thank you for your efforts in supporting the camp's cash back programs! Tuscazoar will receive 1% cash back for all receipts turned in to us from Sept. 7, 2003 through May 15, 2004 from any Acme Fresh Market store. Please save your receipts and mail them to our PO box. The camp also has an account at the Gordon Food Service (GFS) store in Canton, where we receive cash back on purchases made in our name at their store. At purchase, just ask them to credit the Camp Tuscazoar Foundation account. We appreciate your help!

Coming Events:

April 30 - May 2	Dover Dam Weekend
May 2	CTF Board Meeting
June 6	CTF Board Meeting
June 26-27	Primitive Gathering
July 11	CTF Board Meeting
August 1	CTF Board Meeting
Sept. 10-12	Pig Gig Campout
Sept. 11 & 12	Pig Roast Fund-raiser
Sept. 12	CTF Board Meeting

Camp Tuscazoar "Breeze"
is published by the
Camp Tuscazoar Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308
Zoarville, OH 44656-0308
<http://www.tuscazoar.org>

June 26-27

Primitive Gathering opens world of bows, atlatl and flint knapping

Step into a world where men and women fashioned tools from wood and stone at Camp Tuscazoar's fourth Primitive Gathering June 26-27. Once again, the ways of the bow, atlatl, and flint knapping will be displayed by skilled artisans for the public to see and learn. Hands-on demonstrations will be offered, including:

- Flint knapping -- from rocks to points. Artisans will demonstrate and show points. Flint and tools will be for sale.
- Atlatl - from beginners to ISAC international competition contenders. Try your arm at the throwing stick and dart.
- Primitive archery -- from axe to wax. Learn how to make self and composite bows. Learn about various arrow woods.

Event hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Practice and challenge ranges will be open to visitors and exhibitors to try their throwing skills. Instructors will have throwing sticks and darts to try. A benefit auction with finely crafted items is scheduled for Saturday at 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 per car. A concession stand will be open.

Group tent sites and cabins are available and registration is under way for vendors and artisans. For more information, contact Ken at 330-756-2041 or e-mail Tim at axetowax@yahoo.com.

An article about self-made bows using information obtained from last years Primitive Gathering is featured in the April 2004 edition of *Field and Stream Magazine*. A footnote mentions the Primitive Gathering at Camp Tuscazoar on June 26-27. What will this year bring? Come join at the Primitive Gathering this year and explore a world of bows, atlatl and flint knapping.