

CVB funds more camp projects

The Camp Tuscazoar Foundation has recently been awarded two grants from the Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) for camp improvements. A \$1,000 grant will be used by local videographer Tyler King to produce a camp promotional video to be posted on our social media platforms. Watch for this new effort. We were also awarded \$1,900 to fund new information panels for the kiosk in our main parking lot and for panels to be installed at our river entrance and out at the Preserve. We intend to add a QR code to these panels that will enable visitors to check in at each location.

We continue to be grateful for all the support we've received from the CVB to help us make even more folks aware of all we have to offer at Tuscazoar.

Maple Days breakfast set for March 19, 20

Do you smell the pancakes cooking? Can you hear the sausages sizzling? And can you feel the maple syrup dripping from your fingers? If the answer is yes, then it must be time for our annual Camp Tuscazoar Maple Days breakfast! On Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we will serve up lots of pancakes, sausage, eggs and applesauce to our hungry guests.

We are also proud to say that we are beginning the process of going "green" with this event. All meals will be served in a "compostable" to-go box that you can use to dine with us in Kimble Hall, at our picnic tables outside or take home to enjoy.

Presale tickets are \$10 (\$5 for kids ten and under). Tickets will also be available at the door for \$12 (\$6 for kids 10 and under). Presale tickets have been mailed to our members but if you wish to purchase at the advanced sale price, you can contact the camp at 330-859-2288 or email info@tuscazoar.org. Or, you can purchase tickets online at <https://givebutter.com/MapleDays>.

Dover Dam Weekend will offer plenty of adventure

Imagine the adventures that have occurred at Camp Tuscazoar over a century of scouting, or just at our 34 prior Dover Dam Weekends. Now, plan your next shared adventures at our 2022 Dover Dam Weekend, April 29 to May 1. Units can choose different adventures for their scouts, based upon each's abilities and goals.

The **Advancement Adventure** focuses on Scouting skills. Hiking a five-mile course, this journey has multiple stops, many featuring rank requirement skills. Learn camp history on the Centennial Trail, find at least 50 sites, and earn the Centennial Trail coin!

Don't need rank requirements? Want a more challenging adventure, with more exploration and map skills tested? Join the **Centennial Trail Adventure**: 100 possible locations. Compete for pride and prizes. Or leave the camp to pursue the **Historic Trails Award/Zoar Valley Trail (ZVT) Adventure**. Head north or south for 10 miles on the ZVT. This adventure oozes history. Other award requirements will be facilitated. Expect fun surprises, whether prepping for Philmont, or just seeking a formidable experience.

A traditional **Merit Badge Adventure** is planned for those who want the usual DDW experience. Check the website for updates. In addition to the other options, scouts can do 1, 2, or 3 **Orienteering Adventures**, with cross-country style White, Yellow, and Orange orienteering options. Prizes too.

Pre-registration is required for both camping and program. Pre-registered day trippers are welcome. Program fee: **\$25 per person** for adult or youth, which covers program activities, an event patch, dinner and, conditions permitting, a review session and campfire. This is not a drop-off event; an adult must be present! We encourage a Dover Dam visit but, for now, tours are not expected.

For more information, visit <http://tuscazoar.org/events/ddw/>.

Tuscazoar events, programs and activities

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

Camp to host river sweep, merit badge day on May 21

Camp Tuscazoar's first Mini-River Sweep and Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge Day will be held May 21.

This event will be held in partnership with Rural Action, a membership-based non-profit that helps empower communities to value and take ownership of our environment, economy and community. The Ohio River Sweep Program is an annual volunteer cleanup to remove litter from the Ohio River. Litter in our waterways is a global problem and the Ohio River Sweep addresses the problem locally. Mini-River Sweeps enable small groups to make a big impact on waterways in their community.

The general public and Scouts are invited to participate. Volunteers will be given trash bags, gloves and a T-Shirt. The goal is to clean the banks of the Tuscarawas River from Dover Dam to Zoarville, a 1.5-mile stretch, with approximately 50 volunteers. Volunteers will check in at camp and confirm they have signed a waiver and watched a safety video and then will be shuttled to the banks of the Tuscarawas River where they will be supervised during clean-up. At the end of the clean-up, volunteers will be shuttled back to camp. The event will be from noon to 4 p.m., with Trash Trophies and a very special dinner at the end of the day.

For Scouts wanting to participate in Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge, here are the details. Scouts must turn in a completed Soil and Water Conservation workbook, which can be found at: <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb106.asp>. Scouts will need to fill out Requirements 1-7. Requirement 7-f will be completed during the river clean up. Scouts will need to complete one of the other tasks for Requirement 7a-e before the event. Merit badge counselor Sean Harris will check the workbooks for completion. Scouts will give him their blue card, filled out correctly, when they turn in their workbook. He will return their cards and workbooks at the dinner. You can reach Sean by phone at 330-417-8017 or via email at Sean.harris686@gmail.com.

More information about registration for volunteers will be posted on our website at <http://tuscazoar.org/events/river-sweep/>. If you would like to assist, contact Nancy Schoenbaum at 330-859-2288.

Cold doesn't discourage Gold Rushers

By Spenser Long

The stations are packed up, the campfires are out, not a scout is around, my truck and trailer are loaded up, and the Gold Rush competition is over for this year.

I would like to thank the participants that came to the event this year despite the cold temperatures. I would also like to thank the adult leaders and volunteers that came down. Without you, the event could not be put on.

This year was a success. Even though we had temperatures in the mid-teens, the scouts did well. We had 28 youth patrols and one adult patrol participate in the event this year. Of those 28 patrols, we had a couple of Webelos dens join the competition.

The top four patrols this year were: First place - Troop 12 Meat Lovers patrol; Second place - Troop 150 Beaver patrol; the Dump Truck patrol from troop 101 took third place; and the Pegasus patrol from Troop 150 took fourth place.

The day began with flag raising at 8:30 a.m. and the stations opening up at 9 a.m. The 8 stations this year included first aid, fire building, road map navigation, lashings, nature study and COPE. The map was a little long this year, with the farthest station out at the dam. While I was delivering the food, it seemed every station had a fire going to fight off the chill. The patrols were required to cook chili as a meal on the trail, and some of it smelled good as I was going down the trails.

I look forward to seeing all of the patrols again next year as I have already started to plan. It's time for me to hit the trail. See you next year.

At left: Scouts braved the snow and cold to participate in the annual Gold Rush Competition in January.



Help needed at farm markets

Our Maple Syrup remains extremely popular, and we have enjoyed brisk sales at local Farmers Markets during the summer. To keep this avenue working, we need volunteers. If you have a free weekday afternoon or a Saturday morning where you could help, please let us know. The more visible we become, the better our sales will be. Help is needed in both the Dover and Canton areas, so you can be involved no matter where you live. We have given up our spot in Massillon but there are other markets where we would like to participate. This is a great way to inform the public about our camp and hopefully bring more hikers, bikers and visitors to our grounds. Please contact Nancy Schoenbaum at 330-859-2288 to discuss your involvement in this worthwhile project. If you can't volunteer, please come visit the markets in Dover at the Tuscarawas Fairgrounds on Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 7 p.m. or at the Jackson Twp. Farmers Market on Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. We always enjoy the company!

Endowment Fund

Helping to Keep the Spirit Burning

The following have helped ensure the future of Camp Tuscazoar with their contributions to the Camp Tuscazoar Endowment Fund.

Dilip Tripathy

David Buffo

Barnhouse Family

John Richard - Life membership

Nancy Schoenbaum - In memory of
Jimmy Smith

The Camp Tuscazoar Endowment Fund was established to ensure that maintenance and improvement projects have an ongoing source of funds. Please consider sending a gift!

Patience pays off in land acquisition

By Dave Tschantz

In March of 2018, a sign appeared at the intersection of White Bridge Road and State Route 416: "For Sale-184 acres land-Water/Woods/Wildlife-On White Bridge-1 Mile to Gate".

I knew immediately that this sign referred to the Comanita property that adjoins the camp at its extreme southern border. After consulting with then-president Dave Myers, I contacted the realtor, indicated our interest and received permission to enter the property for an inspection. Four Camp Tuscazoar Foundation (CTF) representatives then toured the property with the realtor. It is comprised of almost 185 acres, approximately 40 of which was strip-mined many years ago, and there is a closed deep mine on a small portion of the property. The terrain, like all of the land along our side of the Tuscarawas River, is steep in places, and a deep hollow cuts across the property, separating the northern third portion from the southern two thirds. The southern two thirds is the site of a gas well and, importantly for the camp, a hunting cabin.

Since the property has been strip-mined, several dangerous highwalls exist, and there are three ponds, one of which is near the southern boundary and can be made suitable for fishing.

Access is from White Bridge Road and the upper railroad bed (now the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail). Due to the extremely rough terrain, no trails or roads exist or can be built that will provide access directly from the existing camp onto this property.

In spite of these drawbacks to development or to most other potentially interested parties, CTF leadership believed that this property, if it could be acquired, would be an asset to the Foundation, especially if the stripped areas could be reclaimed, as was done in 2017 after CTF acquired the Dessecker Farm.

We began negotiations through the sellers' (the Comanita family) realtor to acquire the property and paid to have it appraised. Because CTF relies on grant funds, primarily from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program (Clean Ohio) administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), to fund its land acquisitions, negotiations were difficult because the sellers wanted to close quickly upon execution of a purchase agreement. This was almost impossible for CTF, because grants are awarded under Clean Ohio only once a year. Another problem with this approach is that Clean Ohio only funds 75% of the price of the real estate. Thus, the non-profit organization requesting funds must come up with the cost of 25% of the appraised price as well as the value of any improvements.

In the past, our acquisitions have been small enough that selling timber provided the needed match. However, this acquisition was going to require cutting a lot of trees (almost \$300,000 worth) to come up with the match, and no one in CTF leadership wanted to cut that many trees on camp property.

To move things along, CTF prepared a submission to Clean Ohio in 2019. However, because of the sellers' closing requirement, and the lack of match money, we chose not to file the grant request.

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Patience pays off...

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Instead, we began discussions with other groups whose mission was land conservation to see if there was a willingness and ability to assist. The idea was that the partner organization would acquire the property from the sellers and then hold it as a willing seller while CTF assembled the necessary funding.

After discussing the acquisition with several organizations, the board authorized a working partnership with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) of Moreland Hills, Ohio. The WRLC and its predecessor organizations have been involved in land conservation for decades in northern Ohio and brought a wealth of experience in land conservation to this project.

However, not long after the WRLC had become involved and its representatives toured the property, CTF was advised by the OPWC that it was not a proper organization to apply for Clean Ohio funds - because land conservation is not its primary purpose. However, a friendly discussion with the OPWC director led to a plan for CTF to form an affiliated land trust that could apply for Clean Ohio funding, acquire property, and then lease the property to the camp on a long-term basis for administration and operation. In addition, the land trust could assist other non-profits in acquiring and conserving land-if it so chose. In accordance with this guidance, the CTF board authorized the formation of the Northern Tuscarawas Land Trust (NLT) in December of 2020.

With this hurdle overcome, and with the assistance and backing of the WRLC, the NLT turned to assembling the necessary funding. While it planned to apply for funding under the next round of Clean Ohio grants, it also began an intensive search for sources of matching funds, and a couple turned up! Providentially, in 2011, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, with which CTF has had a great long-term relationship, began a grant program called "Partners in Watershed Management" (PWM). Up until recently, grant amounts awarded under that program were not large, but because of increased revenue larger amounts began to become available. The Comanita property acquisition, because of its proximity to the river and its unreclaimed strip-mine areas, seemed like a great candidate for funding under this program, as well as another one administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The NLT filed an application in September of 2021, and waited. Thankfully, on November 23, 2021, less than two weeks before the Clean Ohio grant application deadline, the NLT received word that it had been awarded \$290,000.00 under the PWM Program!

With this welcome news added to our application, we filed for around \$900,000.00 in Clean Ohio funds on December 6, 2021. I also want to note the very important written support we received from the Tuscarawas County Commissioners and the trustees of Dover and Goshen Townships. In a Clean Ohio application, the support of local officials is key, and we are grateful to all three governmental entities for supporting this project!

Meanwhile, the WRLC worked out a purchase agreement with the sellers, so we could confidently assure the OPWC that we could move forward once funding became available. The sellers were willing to work out an acceptable agreement, and we appreciate their assistance and cooperation very much!

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Camp stockade available for crossovers

A quick reminder to cubmasters that the camp's new stockade has a complete "crossover bridge" that your pack can use for crossover ceremonies. What a sight to have the Cubs walking across the bridge into Scouts in such an outdoor setting filled with Scouting history! Let us know if we can help you plan your program. Several packs have already used the stockade for their ceremony.

How you can help Camp Tuscazoar

Several organizations make it easy for you to help support Camp Tuscazoar as we work to replace our reduced camping income, especially during this period of rising prices.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. We have posted on link on our website home page www.tuscazoar.org or go directly to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1545370> and a portion of your purchases will support the camp.

Camp Tuscazoar Foundation is also listed as a qualifying charity with Thrivent and we receive donations from several members who have Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thrivent Choice enables members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding. For more information, visit <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

In addition, we have received many memorial donations through Network for Good. Network for Good uses the Internet and mobile technology to securely and efficiently distribute thousands of donations from donors to their favorite charities each year. To learn more, visit <https://www.networkforgood.com>.

Patience pays off...

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On January 25, 2022, the Natural Resources Advisory Council, which recommends funding to the OPWC, met to review our project and assign an appropriate score which, we hoped, would lead to a positive recommendation. While I could not attend, Jacob Pries from the WRLC was able to attend and answer the council members' questions. After all questions were answered, the council voted to recommend full funding of our project to the OPWC! This decision meant that this acquisition, unlike all the others we've done, was fully funded. After three and a half years of planning and work, our goal was finally reached, and in fine style!

As you read this, the NTLT will soon close, or very recently closed, on the property. Once closing occurs, the NTLT will lease the property on a long-term basis to CTF, which will administer it as a part of Camp Tuscazoar. This will effectively add 185 acres to the camp, bringing the total acreage to just under 800. CTF hopes to begin renting the cabin on the property to groups at that time.

Down the road, the NTLT will seek to reclaim the strip-mined areas of the property, which will require certain areas to be closed while the ground is reworked and the highwalls eliminated. We are already discussing this project with the ODNR's Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program, the same folks CTF worked with to reclaim the Dessecker mine. While it is uncertain at this time that the reclamation project will be approved, and when it could begin, we have high hopes that we can begin reclamation in 2024.

Once we take possession of the property, we invite our patrons to explore all the nooks and crannies of this new addition. So, stay tuned, as Camp Tuscazoar grows yet again!



Adventure Race will run July 9

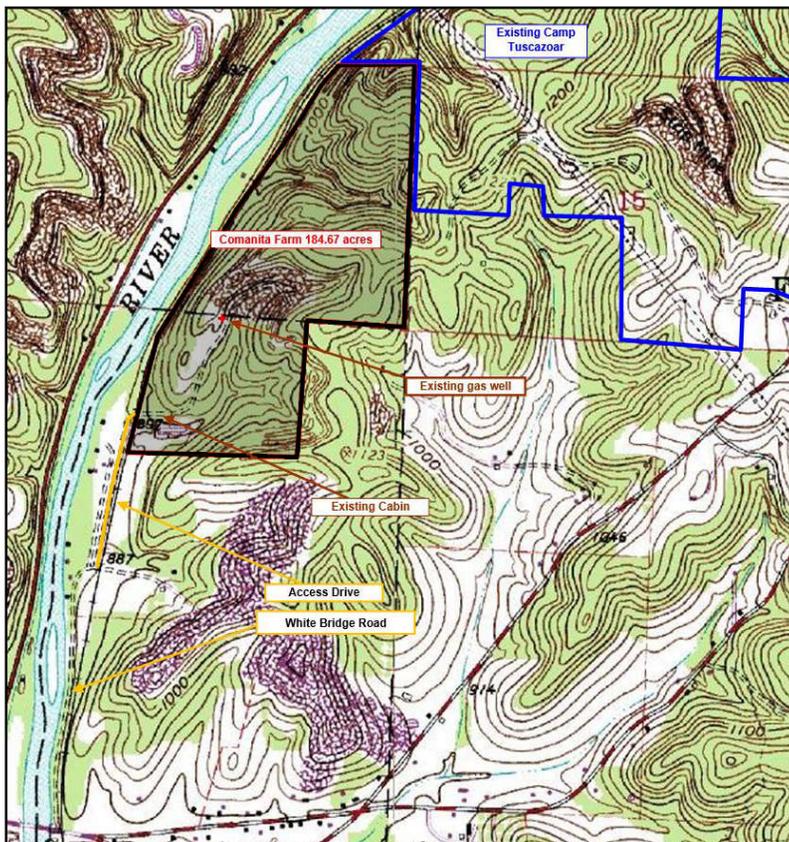
Rugged adventure awaits in this action-packed race on July 9. Run, paddle, trek, mountain bike and orienteer. Navigate your way around Camp Tuscazoar, the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail and the Tuscarawas River to see if you have what it takes to earn the title. Team up with friends or tackle the challenges solo. Racers could cover more than 16 miles over the rugged and beautiful terrain of northern Tuscarawas County.

Two tracks will be offered again this year. The Sprinter track will use the East Side trails for the bike leg. The Ultimate track will incorporate more of the West Side bike trails. Participants in both categories have the option to add an orienteering leg to their registration.

This year, timing will be conducted by Northeast Ohio Orienteering Club (NEOOC) using the SPORTident timekeeping system. This will require each participant or team to carry a small sensor they will use to check in (or 'punch') at the completion of each race element and at each control point on the orienteering course. This will be new, but the sensor is tiny and should not impede your performance in any way.

To register, go to <https://registration.midohiorm.com/events/2022-tuscazoar-adventure-race--02062022258>

At left: The shaded area indicates the nearly 185-acre tract of land to be acquired by the Camp Tuscazoar Foundation and added to the camp property.



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Grant will fund new chapel roof

The Camp Tuscazoar Foundation was recently awarded a \$4,000 grant from the Zimmerman Foundation to purchase the materials for a new steel roof on one of our most precious buildings, Tom's Chapel. We are planning to complete the roof project this summer using volunteers for whom this building holds special meaning. If you are interested in helping with this project, send us an email at info@tuscazoar.org and we will keep you informed of dates for this project.

Coming Events:

Mar 19, 20	Maple Days Breakfast
Apr 29-May 1	Dover Dam Weekend
May 14	Running with my Gnomies
May 21	Ohio River Sweep
July 2-4	Reign of Pain MTB Race
July 9	Adventure Race
Aug 20	Paws and Hooves
Sept 2-5	Brimstone 100 Race
Sept 10, 11	Pig Roast

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Help needed for mowing, campmasters, museum

Did you ever want to just unplug and get away for a weekend? We are looking for individuals or couples who would be willing to come to camp on a Friday night to help get campers where they need to be and then enjoy a quiet day maybe relaxing in the hammock or hiking the hills. We would ask that on Sunday morning you help campers depart with clean campsites and their trash in the dumpster. The pay for this job is what we like to call "priceless", as what could be more fun? Email us at info@tuscazoar.org if you think you might want to join the fun and which weekend you might want to help out.

Also, since we are a nonprofit and have no payroll, we are seeking help with the acres of grass that needs to be attended to each week. It may not seem like it now, as we move into late winter, but all too soon the grass will need to be cut. If you have a spare Saturday and want to ride our mowers (there could be a free gift), let us know when you can ride and we will be happy to get you started.

In addition, we would like to open the W.C. Moorhead Museum on Saturday and Sunday mornings for our visitors. The number of folks hiking, biking, and riding at our camp on weekends has been amazing and it would be great to have someone sitting on the porch of the museum to make them feel welcome. You never know who might show up!

