



Troop 52 Gazette



Troop 52 Welcomes Their 100th Eagle Scout

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, Troop 52 held an Eagle Court of Honor their 100th Eagle Scout, Finn Lindstrom. Finn joined the troop after earning his Arrow of Light with Pack 55. In his seven years with the troop, Finn has excelled and has been one of our most active scouts. His participation in our High Adventure program has taken him hiking in the Rockies, sailing in the Bahamas, cycling in the White Mountains, and canoeing through the wilderness of Maine. He even attended the 2013 National Jamboree in West Virginia.

For his Eagle Community Service Project, Finn and his team of workers built artificial fish habitats and placed them in Watertown's Lake Winnemaug. The structures, which are made of man-made materials, are designed to mimic trees and branches. They will provide fish with a place to raise young, lay eggs, and protect them from predators. The artificial fish habitats were donated by the Bass Masters Association which had members on hand to help with the project.

At his Eagle Court of Honor, Brian LaFontaine, Watertown High School Cross Country Team spoke of Finn's character, hard work ethic, and his tremendous leadership abilities. As a studious and musically gifted student, Finn is a member of the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. He will be the attending University of Connecticut's School of Engineering in the fall. Finn's Eagle sponsor was James Turner.

Troop 52 Holds Special Recognition Dinner for Joe LeClair

On April 28, 2018, family, close friends, colleagues, Boy Scouts and their families, Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Committee members, Mothers' Auxiliary members, Cub Scout Leaders, alumni, and special guests celebrated Joseph LeClair, III who stepped down as scoutmaster in March after serving in that role for 40 years. A total of 215 guests witnessed the unforgettable event which took place in the Camp Mattatuck Dining Hall. Guests were treated to delicious steak dinner prepared by Chef John Lynch of Troop 140 Oakville and several volunteers who were more than happy to help with the celebration.

Special guests, which included Watertown's Ray Cavanaugh, State Senator Eric Berthel and State Representative Joseph Poletta, each spoke and praised LeClair's many years of service to the community. Joe's closest friend since he was eleven, Paul Hoffman, traveled from his home near Daytona Beach, Florida to be part of the special event. Hoffman fought laryngitis to deliver a testimonial full of humor, sentimentality, and appreciation. Current Scoutmaster, Allan W. Dodge, himself a Troop 52 Eagle Scout under Joe's leadership, presented a slideshow which recounted Joe's nearly 60 years in Scouting. Master of Ceremonies, Oz Bartlett, presented Joe with a handsome plaque and unveiled a Scoutmaster Honor Board to be mounted in the hallway of the Union Congregational Church.

Celebration for LeClair

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Finally, the room went quiet to hear the address from Joseph L. LeClair III. It came as no surprise to anyone fortunate to know him when he shifted the attention from himself to all those who supported, followed, and helped him during his time as Scoutmaster.

In perhaps the highlight of the evening, the former Scoutmaster ended the celebration by leading everyone on a Lion Hunt. The skit's theatrics brought laughter and applause from every guest. Its importance was not lost on any of the long-time Assistant Scoutmasters or scouters. LeClair's presentation paid homage to Tom Huran who performed it every year at Camp Mattatuck. Although he performed it at many campfires, it was always chosen as the last skit of the final campfire of the summer camp season. The long time Camp Mattatuck Director performed it in front of parents and families to give time to the Boy Scouts so they could prepare for the torchlight parade which closed the camp.

The troop also presented 25 year awards to Ray Zawislak and Brian Turner.



Joe leads the dinner guests on a 'Lion Hunt'.

(Photographs of the event are on Page 8)

Advancement

Troop 52 is proud to announce the following Boy Scouts recently advanced in rank:

David McClendon	Eagle	05/23/18
Alex Pillis	Life Scout	04/25/18
Spencer Dodge	Life Scout	05/23/18
Christopher Sullivan	Life Scout	05/30/18
Zachary Holt	Second Class	04/25/18
Connor Fahey	Second Class	05/30/18
Jacob Scalo	Tenderfoot	04/25/18
Shawn Bigby	Scout	05/30/18
Giovanni Massicotte	Scout	06/06/18
Evan Rosario	Scout	06/06/18

The following Boy Scouts earned Merit Badges this quarter:

Kyle Robinson	Env. Science
David McClendon	Cit. in the Community
David McClendon	Personal Management
David McClendon	Cooking
David McClendon	Family Life
Zachary Holt	Snow Sports
Alex Pillis	Snow Sports
Alex Pillis	Cooking
Spencer Dodge	Cit. in the Community
Spencer Dodge	Cit. in the World
Spencer Dodge	Personal Fitness
Christopher Sullivan	Cit. in the Community
Christopher Sullivan	Cit. in the World
Christopher Sullivan	Cooking



Finn Lindstrom, Troop 52's 100th Eagle Scout

Scoutmaster's Corner

Allan W. Dodge, Scoutmaster

As our "Scout Year" comes to an end, I reflect upon my past three months as Scoutmaster, and it truly makes me appreciate those who show up to the doorstep at 7:00PM every Wednesday night. This is my first Scoutmaster's Corner, and to describe the Troop, I am going to steal an analogy from Chris Moon, past Camp Director of Camp Mattatuck, that I heard almost every Wednesday during my four years on Staff at Camp Mattatuck.

As the Wednesday night campfire would come to a close, Chris Moon would invite the Camp Staff and Scoutmasters to stand behind the campfire rings, creating the "third side" of the amphitheater. He would then explain that Scouting was a triangle, one of the world's strongest shapes. Standing in the middle of that amphitheater, the Parents, Scouts, and Leaders/Staff surrounded him making up the "Scouting Triangle" he was talking about. He would call attention to each side and make sure that each side of the triangle was appropriately recognized, and then closed by illustrating that without any side of that triangle, it could not support itself. The same holds true in Troop 52.

With the addition of 15 new scouts in March, we had a youth membership of 60 scouts, and our patrols were bursting at the seams. This is a great thing. Each Wednesday, as you enter Fellowship Hall, you can feel the energy emitting from the Scouts. The Boy Scouts of America cannot exist without the Boy Scouts. The Scouts are the first leg of Troop 52's triangle.

After dropping off their sons, parents return home for a brief moment before they have to turn around again for pickup. In this time, they may have received a text or a phone call that their son left a piece of equipment at home, or needed money for the campout, or forgot their signed permission slip on the counter, or needed them to drive for this weekend's campout. There are times where a scout truly needs to lean on their parents for support, but there are also some times when the Troop as a whole needs to rely on the parents. The Parents are the second leg of the triangle.

Now, the last leg of Troop 52's triangle, the Adult Volunteers. This leg of the triangle is the most important to me, and it is the one that I am most thankful for. The Adult Volunteers make up our Assistant Scoutmasters, our Troop Committee, and our Mothers' Auxiliary. These three groups of adults are made up of many who have seen their sons all the way through the Troop, some to the rank of Eagle, and yet they are still walking through the church doors each and every Wednesday. Many show up after working all day, sitting in traffic to and from work, and having to skip dinner to make it to the meeting on time. Without these people, Troop 52 could not exist. My biggest fear when I took over as Scoutmaster was retaining many of these adult volunteers. I am turning 26 years old this month, and many of our adult volunteers have kids that are my age, or older. I am thankful that they are not only dedicated to me, but the whole Scouting program.

It has been a great Scouting year, and will be a great Scouting summer, between our Cycling Trip from the White Mountain to Canada, and our week at Camp Mattatuck. I hope that you all have a fun and safe summer.

Memorial Day Parade 2018

On Monday morning, Troop 52 assembled at Adams Plaza to continue a tradition as old as the troop itself, the town's Memorial Day Parade. 26 Boy Scouts and 11 adult leaders marched along Main Street to the Memorials in the center of Oakville. The two columns of smartly-dressed troop members were led by Chase Relyea who placed a wreath on the behalf of our Troop at the base of the monument in Oakville. The pride the scouts displayed as they marched was reflected by the number of compliments they received.

Before the event, several Troop 52 families decorated graves and monuments. Thank you to the Acuna Family, the Hardt Family, Diane Corona, and Joe LeClair for planting flowers at memorial sites around town. For the past 30 years, the troop has assisted the Watertown/Oakville Veteran's Council with the plantings.



Service Projects

Tom's Way

On April 14, a group of Boy Scouts and adult leaders refurbished the upper section of Camp Mattatuck's *Tom's Way*. Volunteers led by Jon Andrew, replaced old and rotted timbers and laid down several yards of processed stone. A month later, on May 17, the crew completed the project after they refurbished the lower section.

The trail was built in 1999 and provides a pathway for Scouts to safely walk from the Cub Scout Pavilion to Nature without having to walk on the main road. The troop refurbished a majority of the trail in 2016. Their efforts ensure it will continue to be of valuable service for many more years to come. The trail was named in memory of Tom Huran who worked at Camp Mattatuck for 50 years and served as its director for twenty-five.



The completed upper section (above) and lower section (below) of Tom's Way.



Outdoor Program

On the weekend of March 24th, nearly 30 scouts camped out at Andrew Mountain in Naugatuck. Eight of the new cross-over scouts stayed for the day.

A week later, five Boy Scouts, Assistant Scoutmaster Charlie Doback, and Scoutmaster Allan Dodge, led a cycling trip along the Farmington Canal Trail. The trek, which started at Brooksvale Park and ended at the Hamden/New Haven line, was a shakedown for this year's High Adventure biking trip.

On the weekend of April 28th, the troop camped out at Camp Mattatuck's Tobe Well. On Saturday evening the scouts, dressed in their Class A uniforms, attended the dinner which honored Joe LeClair.

On May 12, Boy Scouts split into two teams; one group hiked in Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, and the other hiked in Macedonia State Park. Although the weather was overcast and rainy, the scouts, as always, were well prepared. Each of them had a memorable and enjoyable time.



Assistant Scoutmaster Jim Doback leads a cooking demonstration for our newest Scouts at Andrew Mountain.

Woodbury United Methodist Church benefits from Eagle Community Service Project

On March 10, 2018, David L. McClendon started his Eagle Community Service Project which benefitted the Woodbury United Methodist Church. He and his team of Boy Scouts, adult leaders, friends, and family turned a storage room located in the basement of the church into a prayer and meeting room. The church, which was short on space, was in need of an area where ministry teams could meet; the new room will provide them with a place to call their own.

Before the crew led by McClendon could start, however, they had to prepare the area. They removed all the materials and stored items that had accumulated over the years. Then the team prepared the walls and painted the entire room. Afterwards, McClendon installed a large entertainment-style shelving unit.

In perhaps the most impressive aspect of David's project, a large painted mural that adorned a storage room wall was preserved. The painting had faded from age and split in two by a large crack. It was photographed and revitalized using computer software. The large crack was "filled in" and the colors were restored to their original brilliance. David then had a very large print made of the mural, had it framed, and presented it to the church.

Over one hundred total hours were spent by McClendon and his 14 helpers. Much of the materials used in his project were donated by members of the church. In the end, an unusable storage room that had been filled with less than useful items was transformed into a needed meeting room for the church carry on their ministry.

Leadership Training With Troop 102

On Saturday, February 24th, the troop joined with our sister troop, Troop 102 Naugatuck, for a day of Junior Leadership Training. The event, held at the Union Congregational Church, featured members of our Leadership Corps, Adult Leadership, and even leaders from Troop 102 Naugatuck who gave valuable leadership instruction. The training provided to advanced Boy Scouts insight in effective leadership of a Patrol, and individual advancement guidance to help them earn Eagle. Some of the various topics that were covered included:

- How to be a leader
- Planning a Campout
- How to Lead a Demo
- How to Lead a Song
- How to be an effective MC
- Understanding of positions, responsibilities and duties

Also, games that built teamwork and communication skills were played in the afternoon.

The event was so successful that it was quickly decided upon to have more similarly themed events with Troop 102 Naugatuck. The event was coordinated by Assistant Scoutmaster Ray Zawislak.



Troop 52 and Troop 102 Junior Leadership Corps that took part in the training event.

Cub Scout Pack 52 News

On May 3, 2018, Cub Scouts from Pack 52 cleaned the grounds of Veteran's Memorial Park. Nearly every Cub Scout participated in the event. Four Troop 52 Boy Scouts who are Cub Scout Den Leaders were also on hand to help with the project. The Cub Scouts filled quite a few garbage bags with trash and in so doing, learned the importance of 'Leave no trace'.

The Cub Scout Pack marched in the Memorial Day parade and led the Boy Scouts down Main Street. After the parade, several Cub Scouts placed a wreath at the monument in Oakville.

In other Cub Scout news, their annual flower sale was held on Mother's Day weekend. Although the weather did not cooperate as well as event organizer Oz Bartlett would have liked, the sale was still very successful. Members of the Pack helped customers carry flowers back to their cars and were a big help. All proceeds from the sale, which took place in the parking lot of Bradshaw Chrysler Jeep, go back to the pack and pay for books, advancements, and trips. Thank you to all the patrons and helpers that made the event a success.

16 Cub Scouts Join Troop 52

On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, Troop 52 held their annual induction ceremony which officially welcomed 16 Cub Scouts into the troop. From the stage, families and friends watched the impressive candle-lit cross-over ceremony.

Although many crossed over from Pack 52, quite a few had been active in other area packs. This serves a testament to the quality of our troop, our program, our adult leaders, and our Boy Scouts.

The troop welcomed the following scouts:

Mark Albino	Pack 52
Cole Barker	Pack 52
Shawn Bigby	Pack 52
Gabriel Bulwidas	Pack 54
Sebastian Creter	Pack 52
Brandon Geneovese	Pack 20
Joseph Gonzales	Pack 52
Kjan Oquendo	Pack 20
Nathan Oun	Pack 52
Xavier Moreno-Martell	Pack 20
Giovanni Massicotte	Pack 52
Elijah Rocher-Hunter	Pack 20
Evan Rosario	Pack 20
Anthony Roundtree	Pack 52
Noah Welsh	Pack 20
Ethan Winstanley	Pack 20



Cub Scouts and Den Leaders after cleaning the grounds of Veteran's Memorial Park.



The former Cub Scouts that officially crossed-over to our troop on April 11, 2018

A Note from Joe LeClair

Thank you to Special Events Committee Chairman Oscar Bartlett and his team for an unforgettable night on April 28th. The food, the program, and the setup of the Rotary Dining Lodge made my retirement party very special for the 215 scouts, friends, and family who attended.

People keep asking how it feels to not be Scoutmaster anymore and I tell them I don't know yet. You don't do something for 40 years and suddenly turn a switch and stop. While Allan has a firm grip on the reins and is off to a great start, my brain still thinks of the troop every day. I will slowly back off, but like Hoffman, Hanover, and others on the troop committee, I will remain committed to supporting the troop in as many ways as I can.

My sincere thanks to all the leaders who supported the troop during my tenure as Scoutmaster, and to those who are helping Allan today. Our troop is in good hands. I'm excited about our future! Thank you to the many alumni and friends who are helping our scouts by participating in the golf tournament and other fund-raising activities to keep Scouting affordable for all boys.

