

Here is your free copy of the May, 2023 issue of Ten Mile River Smoke Signals, newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum. To get future issues without the two-month delay, pay your Museum dues at <https://www.tmrmuseum.org/online-dues-payment>



Vol. 23 Dedicated to Preserving the Memories of T.M.R. Campers No. 5

The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - May 2023

In this issue of Smoke Signals you will learn some TMR history as well as current events. Our history series continues with a story about Dan Beard.

If you have a TMR memory you would like to share please email it to us.

[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

I am very excited that camp is opening soon. We can't wait to see everyone at our museum. I want to thank our Co-Director, Glenn Pontier, for conducting two well-attended virtual talks. Catch them on our [YouTube channel](#). Nick Norwood, who, like me, was a former Chappegat Troop 721 camper and staff member, recently moved an old Kunatah latrine to our museum. It is expected that my Chappy leanto will make it over to our museum. We plan to set things up to give people a taste of the beloved Rock Lake camps. Part of our display will show the sanitary system the camps used in the old days. If you still need to register for [TMR's August 4-5 Alumni Weekend](#), please do.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEW NOW - [CLICK HERE](#)



OFF-SEASON OPEN DATES:

The Museum will also be open the weekend of the Raft-O-Ree: June 9-11.

Raft-O-Ree

Kintecoying Lodge Induction Weekend

Kintecoying Lodge held an induction weekend at Alpine Scout Camp starting April 21st and running to April 23rd. During the weekend, we inducted 33 new ordeal candidates and 19 new brotherhood candidates. During the ordeal, we helped set up Alpine Scout Camp for spring and summer programming. We also began working on a new archery range that will be placed by the climbing center.

by Alexander Halligan, Chief of Aquehongian Chapter, Kintecoying Lodge #4



TMR Scout Museum at Riverfest

On Sunday, July 23 from 10 am to 4 pm, DVAA hosts the 33rd annual Riverfest, a celebration of art, music, and ecology along the Delaware River in Narrowsburg, NY. In addition to unique artisan vendors, the highly anticipated day-long event features amazing live music, a benefit poster auction, a hands-on Kids Crafting Corner, the beloved River Dogs (on) Parade, and regional street theater. Details [here](#).

Ernest Thompson Seton Exhibit

By David Malatzky



Ernest Thompson Seton

The Museum is organizing an exhibit on B.S.A. co-founder Ernest Thompson Seton. In 1902, Mr. Seton organized his “Woodcraft Indians,” a youth-based organization that taught Native American culture and skills, initially to boys in Cos Cob, Connecticut, and then nationwide. This was in reaction to Seton’s concerns (widespread at the time) that America’s youth were developing deficient in moral character.

By 1906, Mr. Seton's organization was well established in the U.S. He visited England to try to expand and met with Lord Baden-Powell, who was developing his own “Boy Scouts.” Mr. Seton gave Baden-Powell a copy of his book, the “Birchbark Roll of the Woodcraft Indians,” which explained his entire program. Baden-Powell was very interested and the two exchanged correspondence on youth organizations.

In 1908, Baden-Powell published his “Scouting for Boys” and launched the Boy Scout Movement. It was extremely popular and started spreading world-wide. Boys in the United States started organizing themselves into Troops, based on “Scouting for Boys.” This was before there was any national Scouting organization. “Scouting for Boys” included many of the games and skills in Seton’s “Birchbark Roll,” but under different names, causing considerable friction between him and Baden-Powell.

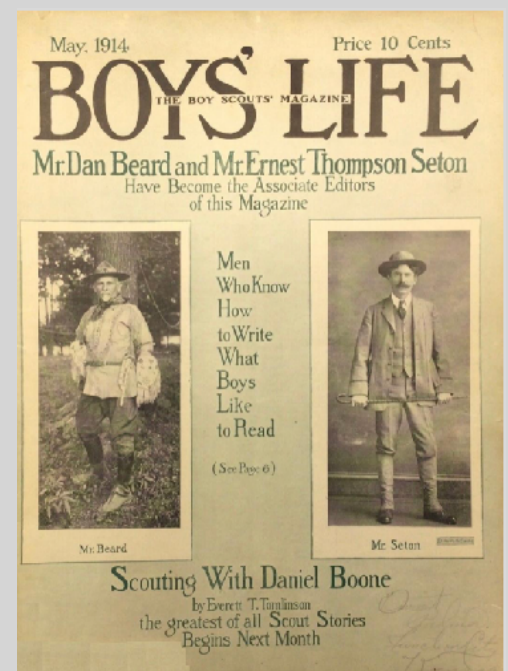
In 1910, seeing the popularity of the Boy Scouts, multiple Scouting organizations quickly formed in the U.S. One was the “Boy Scouts of America,” organized by William D. Boyce, a newspaper publisher. Boyce quickly lost interest, but the YMCA continued the organization process.

Mr. Seton saw the opportunity to steer the new organization in the direction of his Woodcraft Indians. He joined the B.S.A. and headed the Organization Committee. Daniel Beard, who had his own “Boy Pioneers of America,” then joined the organization. Mr. Seton was made “Chief Scout,” the highest position while Dan Beard was one of three National Scout Commissioners. The Woodcraft Indians had a different philosophy from the Baden-Powell and Dan Beard organizations, leading to considerable conflict between Seton and Beard.

In August, 1910 Mr. Seton organized an experimental Boy Scout camp at Silver Bay, a YMCA camp on Lake George. He taught the Scouts many of the skills from his “Birchbark Roll.”

It was felt that having a Boy Scout Handbook was essential to success. Mr. Seton quickly combined sections of Baden-Powell’s “Scouting for Boys” and his own “Birchbark Roll” and published the first official B.S.A. Handbook in 1910.

In May 1914, Mr. Seton and Dan Beard were announced on the cover of Boys’ Life Magazine as Associate Editors.



The B.S.A. was one of several Boy Scout organizations in the U.S. This led to multiple court cases to determine which organization would eventually survive. The B.S.A. eventually obtained a national charter from the U.S. Government, giving it control over the Boy Scout movement in the United States. This was a problem for Mr. Seton, who was Canadian and could not lead the B.S.A. under a national charter. He also was a pacifist, while the B.S.A. very much supported American efforts in World War I.

In 1915, Mr. Seton was not reappointed to the B.S.A. National Council due to his citizenship problem and his leadership role in the B.S.A. ended. He became a U.S. citizen in 1931.

The Museum exhibit features a variety of personal items actually owned by Ernest Thompson Seton and the Seton family.

TMR Alumni Day 2023

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:

[Click here to register](#)

The TMR Arrowhead began as the Brooklyn Arrowhead. The first Arrowhead reunion was September 12, 1964. The Arrowhead has continuously met at TMR every year since then.



Monarchs at TMR

by Glenn Pontier

Every year museum co-director Ira Nagel purchases hanging baskets filled with colorful flowers to help beautify the outside of the museum. Last July, museum co-director Glenn Pontier noticed that a butterfly was attracted to the flowers and was flitting from one basket to another.

Looking more closely, Pontier identified the insect as a Monarch Butterfly. These are the amazing little creatures that spend the summer in northern climates and then fly to Mexico during the fall. There they winter over. Their descendants take several generations during the spring to get back to their preferred summering grounds.

A little investigation by Nagel and Pontier turned up a patch of milkweed plants along the road near the museum. Sure enough, there were more butterflies on these plants. As it turns out, milkweed is the only plant on which the butterflies lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch, the caterpillars eat the milkweed before forming cocoons and ultimately turning into butterflies.

Unfortunately, one of the TMR ranger staff cut down the stand of milkweed when he was trimming back



Many pesticides are harmful to pollinators. They are especially dangerous to bees who help to pollinate a vast amount of our food sources.

Want to Do More?

Here are seven Scouting Merit Badges that explore and inform the discussion of Monarch Butterflies.



the growth along the road. That prompted Pontier to look for a way to inform the staff and campers about this remarkable creature.

Monarch Butterflies are a threatened species throughout North America and there are many campaigns to educate the public and to preserve their habitat. That means planting and protecting milkweed stands.

To help in this endeavor the TMR Scout Museum applied for and received a \$700 grant from the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway to create an exhibit about Monarch Butterflies. The byway supports such projects in an effort to protect the butterflies which use the river corridor on their journey.

The grant allowed the museum to hire Dorene Warner of W Design to create the exhibit. She was one of the individuals who created an original brochure about Monarchs for the Scenic Byway. In addition to an indoor display describing the butterfly's life cycle and annual migration, an outdoor sign will be posted near the milkweed, so plants are not destroyed again.

The exhibit was installed at the end of April and is on display whenever the Museum is open.



How Dan Beard and Queens Scouts Reorganized New York City Scouting

By David M. Malatzky

The Museum recently acquired copies of some of the early Queens Borough Council Executive Board minutes. Queens Borough Council was organized at a meeting held on May 26, 1915, with National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard (a Flushing resident), presiding.

First, the background story. The B.S.A. was organized in 1910, but what about Scouting in New York City? In 1910, New York City Council was chartered, encompassing all five boroughs. In 1911, Brooklyn and Queens boroughs obtained their own charter, becoming Brooklyn Council.

As a result, in 1913, Scouts in Flushing, Queens had to go to Brooklyn to pick up their rank and merit badges. "Uncle Dan" would not accept this and complained about his "suffering" Scouts at the National Council Executive Board Meeting. This led to the question of how to best organize Scouting in New York City?

A committee, consisting of Mortimer Schiff, John Sherman Hoyt and others, was formed to investigate local conditions and recommend possible solutions. The Bureau of Municipal Research was hired and spent six months visiting the various Scouting headquarters and interviewing the staff and volunteers.

The Bureau proposed the organization that, with some changes, we still use today:

- **Each Troop** would have a **Committee** with a representative on the **District Council** (today, District).
- **The District Council** would have jurisdiction over all District Activities and organize Courts of Honor to pass Scouts on their rank and merit badges. It would have two representatives on the **Borough Council**.

- Each N.Y.C. borough would have a **Borough Council**, which would be chartered by the B.S.A. The **Borough Council** would recognize the decisions of the various District Courts of Honor, and be responsible for policy and finance. It would have representatives on the **the Advisory Committee**.
- **The Advisory Committee** would work on city-wide issues.

Dan Beard opened the meeting by reassuring the participants that there was no cause for alarm: the purpose of the proposed Queens Borough Council would not be to interfere with the work of the District Councils, but to aid them. If it did not prove to be of assistance it would be eliminated.

Mr. Beard introduced Chief Scout Executive James E. West, who reviewed the work up to that point (see above). Mr. West reiterated that the proposed Borough Council would only do things to add to the work of the District Councils and in no way detract from them. It was pointed out that having District Council representatives on the Borough Council would help guarantee this. It was admitted that the proposed plans were in the nature of an experiment brought about by the unique situation in New York City Scouting.

A general discussion followed:

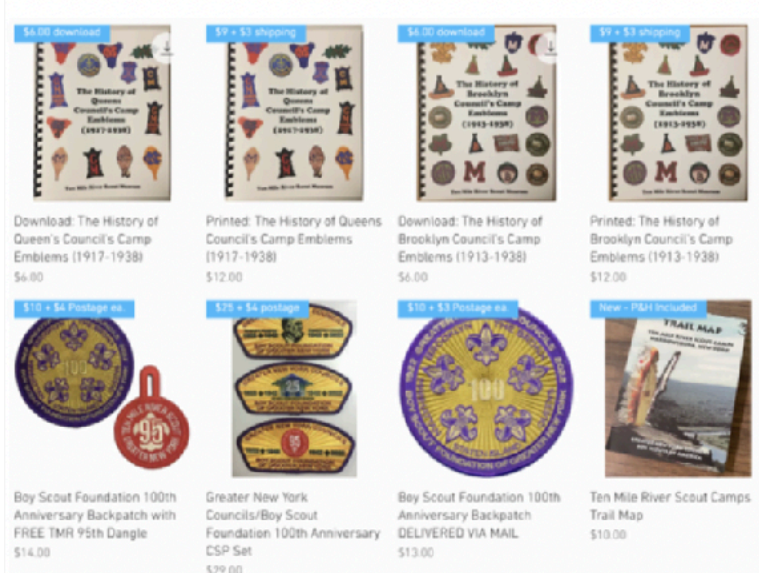
- **Judge Fitch** asked if it would be possible to leave Queens alone (without a Borough Council) until January 1st of the following year? Mr. West replied that National Council wanted to get out of the business of supervising the 41 Queens Troops. Instead, it wanted to deal with a Commissioner and a Scout Executive representing Queens Scouting. \$1,800 (\$54,000 today) was available to develop Queens Scouting and National Council wanted to give it to the Queens Borough Council, not the District Councils, which didn't represent Queens.
- **Mr. Robb** asked if the meeting had representatives from the organized District Councils and the unorganized sections? He was assured that some of the unorganized sections were represented.
- **Judge Fitch** claimed that the organization of the Queens Borough Council was premature.
- **Flushing, College Point and Astoria** also questioned the value of the organization at that time.

The motion was made to proceed with the organization of The Queens Borough Council, Boy Scouts of America. The names of 35 individuals representing all parts of the borough were proposed to serve as members. The motion passed.

A nominating committee was formed and the meeting was recessed until they submitted their report. It included a President (Alrick H. Man), three Vice-Presidents, a Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Members-at-Large. It was decided to leave the appointment of the new Queens Scout Executive to the new Queens Borough Council Executive Board. This completed the important work of the meeting.

In summary, the difficulties of some Flushing Scouts obtaining their badges lead to the organization of New York City Scouting, with some assistance along the way by Dan Beard.

The Museum's Website Store



Did you know that the Museum sells a variety of T.M.R. and Museum merchandise from our Website Store: <https://www.tmr-museum.org/online-museum-store/>

This includes most every patch set issued by the Museum in recent years, the 2021 *Guide to Memorabilia of the Ten Mile River Scout Camps*, Indian Cliff puzzles, Scout Service Corps CSP's from 1996-2003, and the two new booklets on Brooklyn and Queens Council emblem histories.

SPECIAL DEAL: For a limited time only, you can purchase the Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with a FREE TMR 95th Dangle. Only \$14 for the two



TMR Wall of Fame

Do you want to recognize some individual, group or organization for their contributions to the Ten Mile River Scout Camps and/or New York City Scouting? A custom-engraved tile on the T.M.R. Wall of Fame might be right for you.

[Wall of Fame - Learn More](#)

Donate Scouting Memorabilia

Donations of T.M.R. and other Scouting memorabilia to the Museum by individuals like you are the main way the Museum grows.

These include, but are not limited to: photos, color slides, 8-mm film, videos, patches, neckerchiefs, neckerchief slides, uniforms, banners, menus, paper items, etc. We can also photograph items and return them to you, or photograph notable items at your home.

[Learn More](#)

