

## AVAILABLE NOW!

The 81-page guidebook to the 2024 TMR Scout Museum exhibit - **BEFORE TMR: How TMR's Property was Used Before it was Purchased by the NYC Scouts 1927 & 1929.** Available in both download and paper formats: <https://www.tmrmuseum.org/online-museum-store>

# EXHIBITION GUIDEBOOK

## BEFORE TMR

**How TMR's Property was Used Before it was Purchased by  
the NYC Scouts in 1927 & 1929**



Villa Switzerland  
(Camp Keowa in 1923)

**TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT MUSEUM**  
Summer, 2024

**See the exhibit starting  
July 9th at the Ten Mile  
River Scout Museum.**



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

# The Newsletter of the Ten Mile River Scout Museum - May 2024

In this issue of Smokes Signals you will get a preview of summer camp from the directors of Camps Keowa and Aquehonga. The Museum announces a new CSP set. Also, there is a slice of the new museum exhibit, Before TMR. The exhibit opens for this summer season.

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

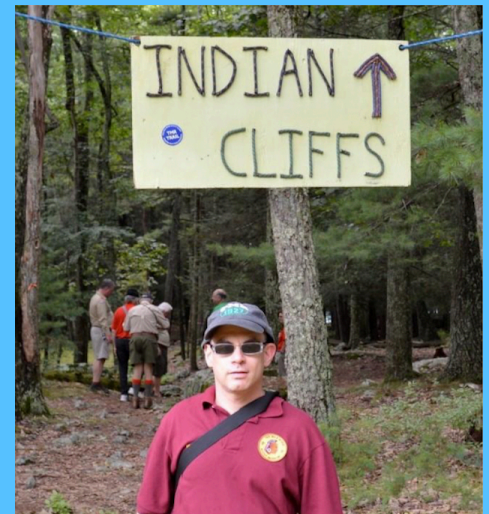
[Join the TMR Scout Museum](#)

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## From the Chairman - Mitchell Slepian

While our hearts lie in Ten Mile River Scout Camps, we have a soft spot for Staten Island's William H. Pouch Scout Camp. I grew up between the two camps. My summers were at TMR, and the other seasons were at Pouch. I am excited to say that we will be back at Pouch thanks to my Vigil Brother (we were called to the Vigil together) and friend Bob "Chizzy" Chiusano. We are working on building an exhibit honoring Frank Gordan, Nuwingi, the Willing One. Frank was a past lodge and Vigil advisor. He was known for being the one who hand-painted the Vigil axes given out to new Vigils right after they got their sash. However, his monumental undertaking was leading the construction project of the current Berlin Lodge after we lost the original to a fire. I will let everyone know when it is ready and when we will host our dedication ceremony.

As we know, summer camp starts in a few weeks. The museum will have an amazing program. Thanks to the hard work of David Malatzky, associate curator, we have a new exhibit showcasing Keowa's Crystal Lake and the surrounding TMR property before it was part of our beloved camp. As always, if you have ideas for exhibits or want to work with us, do not hesitate to contact me at Mitchell Slepian [chairmantmrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:chairmantmrmuseum@gmail.com).



# FAMOUS PEOPLE IN EARLY TMR HISTORY CSP SET



The Ten Mile River Scout Museum is pleased to announce we will be selling sets of CSPs honoring early famous people and places in TMR history starting some time in June. We are waiting for the patches to arrive and when they do, how-to-order information will be posted in Smoke Signals and on Social Media and be available to you. There will be two 10-CSP sets, one with different colored borders (above) and a very limited quantity special gold border set.

## Keowa 2024 by Scott Delloso

Thanks for continuing to look back fondly on your summers at Camp Keowa. We could only be doing some of our cool things with your support.

Speaking of cool things, we have a lot of them going on this summer:

-> Two new program areas. *Media Productions* will be located in the old Indian Lore area behind Handicrafts.

A new pavilion with an attached shed will be installed for the new *Fishing* area, located in the woods between Thunderbird Theater and the field by the waterfront.

-> We are hosting an Aviation Camp this summer, where Scouts can do a flyover of TMR! (The pilot took me on a test trip! I took some footage and made this promo video if you want to check it out)

-> More new programs, if you are interested, can be seen at [tenmileriver.org/new2024](http://tenmileriver.org/new2024)

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Alumni Weekend; August 9-11. It will be an event to remember!

Hope to see you this summer! Check out some ways you can be involved!



# The Van Allen Grange and Camp Keowa

By David M. Malatzky

If you ever wondered why Crystal Lake and the property around it are so beautiful, you can thank George and William Van Allen. Who were George and William Van Allen? They were wealthy brothers in the firm Vanallens and Boughton which manufactured printing presses in N.Y.C. circa 1880s-1910s.

The printing press business must have been good, because in 1883, the Van Allen brothers paid \$200,000 (\$6 million+ today) for 4,000 acres of historical TMR from Smith Mill and Tylertown in the north to Half Moon Lake in the south. This was all heavily wooded land and the Van Allens could have cut down all the trees as was done during the great lumbering boom in the region a few decades earlier.

But they did not. In fact, the Van Allens spent thousands of dollars improving their property and did not permit lumbering at all. (Note: \$1,000 in 1883 = \$30,000 today.) The Van Allens purchased the property for an elaborate summer estate, called the Van Allen Grange. Between 1883-1913, the Van Allens spent 5-6 weeks of each summer at the Grange. They used the wooded property and lakes for hunting, fishing, and farming.

Back then, Crystal Lake was known as Big Pond, and the Van Allens built an elaborate summer home where Camp Keowa is today. Their three-story residence was located near where the Camp Keowa Cope Course is today, and had a capacity of 100 persons. Nearly every room had hot and cold running water and gas was manufactured on the premises for lighting.

Nearby was a bowling alley, boathouse, engine-house, machine shop, barns, stables, flower and vegetable gardens, and an orchard.

Big Pond was well-stocked with perch and pickerel and supplied with a dozen boats for fishing and rowing. The farm at Tylertown had a fine house, barn and sawmill. The Smith Mill farm had a large barn.

In 1888, the Van Allens brought a party of friends (mostly purchasers of their printing presses) to the Grange for a week of hunting, fishing and shooting. All expenses from the time the party left New York until its return were paid for by the three hosts. The result was the unofficial organization of the Sullivan County Turtle Club, which made similar pilgrimages to the Van Allen Grange at the firm's invitation annually in the spring and fall.



Crystal Lake Area Map - 1923



Van Allen Residence in the 1920s

In 1900, the Van Allens built a hunting lodge for use by the Sullivan County Turtle Club, called "Stag Hall." It was located near where the Tower of Friendship is today and was utilized as the Camp Man headquarters when it opened in 1930.



William Van Allen

The Van Allen Grange was sold to new owners in 1916, but they kept it as wilderness preserve, as did subsequent owners. Thus, the property was suitable for purchase by the NYC Scouts when TMR was acquired in 1927 and 1929.

This is not ancient history. The Van Allen Residence stood in Camp Keowa until the early 1960s and was known then as the “Big House.”

The next time you think about our wonderful TMR, you can thank the Van Allen brothers for improving their part of it and keeping it a natural wilderness.

To learn more about the Van Allen Grange and TMR before the NYC Scouts purchased it, see my exhibit this summer at the TMR Scout Museum: Before TMR.

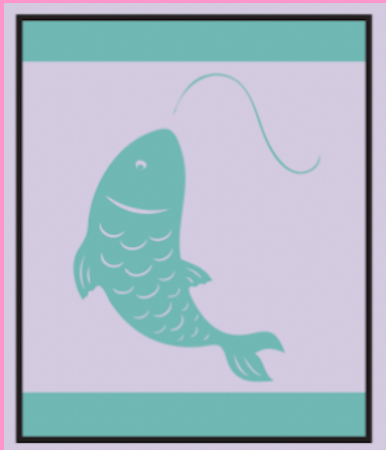
## Aquehonga 2024 by Anthony Zalak



A lot is going on this summer at Camp Aquehonga. First, I am happy to announce that I have been named the camp director for this season. This will be my 22nd consecutive summer on staff. Under the leadership of Marty Mahr, several program areas have undergone renovations in the past several years, such as the nature lodge and trail, field sports, and now, this year, the Aquehonga Waterfront, AKA Half Moon Lake. We have new docks, a boat house, a pavilion, a P & O house, an Aqua Campfire, and a picnic area that have all been added to the waterfront.

This year, we are adding several new merit badges and evening programs. Please come check us out. Campsites are still available, and we offer provisional opportunities as well.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone this summer.



# GNYC Fishing Derby 2024

Willam H. Pouch Scout Camp

Saturday June 1st, 2024

9am-3pm - Rain or Shine

Register: <https://scoutingevent.com/640-pouchfishingderby24>

**Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in all categories!**

**Lions, Tigers, Wolfs, Bears, Webelos and siblings under 10 are invited.**

- Cub Scout that catches the biggest fish (length) will win a new fishing pole and tackle box! Awards & prizes will be given out!
- Bring your own fishing gear • Bait will be available at camp
- Cub Pack Units bring your Pack make a day of it, rent a Picnic site and bring some BBQ

**Fee:** \$10 per Participant

**Questions?** Email Paul Caminiti at [caminitipaul@yahoo.com](mailto:caminitipaul@yahoo.com)

**Please Note:**

- Catch and release fishing only. All NY State fishing rules and regulations apply at all times.
- No fishing is permitted in the swimming area or the blue boat launch Area.
- A DEC issued freshwater fishing license is required for anyone aged 16 and older. For NYS fishing license information, visit the DEC website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html>. A one-day fishing license is available for purchase online for \$5.
- Lead-free fishing sinkers are required for ½ ounce or less weights. Lost or discarded lead weights dissolve slowly over time. Exposure to low amounts of lead is toxic to both humans and wildlife.
- Barbless hooks are required. Barbless hooks are easier to remove, causing fewer fish injuries. You can also use pliers to bend barbed hooks. See our staff for assistance.
- Non-stainless-steel hooks are recommended. If lost or swallowed by a fish, non-stainless-steel hooks will rust, dissolve, and disappear quicker than stainless steel hooks.
- Please carry out all trash and collect any that you see. Keep our camp clean!
- Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs of any kind are never permitted on camp property.
- Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.
- No watercraft of any kind is permitted on the lake.

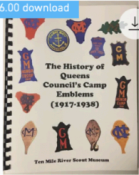
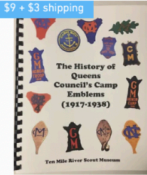
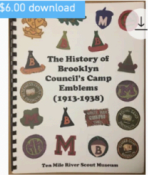





## **Request from Dr. Gene Berman, founding chairman**

Were you a camper or staff man at Davis Lake in 1960? Did you do the Trek in 1996, which had a patch with a red circle TMR trail and segments? If so, contact me at +1917-940-0015 or [geneberman@verizon.net](mailto:geneberman@verizon.net)

## 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.

<p><b>\$6.00 download</b></p>  <p>Download: The History of Queens Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$6.00</p>	<p><b>\$9 + \$3 shipping</b></p>  <p>Printed: The History of Queens Council's Camp Emblems (1917-1938) \$12.00</p>	<p><b>\$6.00 download</b></p>  <p>Download: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$6.00</p>	<p><b>\$9 + \$3 shipping</b></p>  <p>Printed: The History of Brooklyn Council's Camp Emblems (1913-1938) \$12.00</p>
<p><b>\$10 + \$4 Postage ea.</b></p>  <p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch with FREE TMR 95th Dangle \$14.00</p>	<p><b>\$25 + \$4 postage</b></p>  <p>Greater New York Councils/Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary CSP Set \$29.00</p>	<p><b>\$10 + \$3 Postage ea.</b></p>  <p>Boy Scout Foundation 100th Anniversary Backpatch DELIVERED VIA MAIL \$13.00</p>	<p><b>New - P&amp;H included</b></p>  <p>Ten Mile River Scout Camps Trail Map \$10.00</p>

## 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](#)



Mitchell Slepian