

October 2003
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Around the Campfire

The E-Newsletter of Sky Lake of Wyoming Conference
A United Methodist Camp & Retreat Center

Events This Month:

*October 5
Fall Festival*

Big Hit! See article at right.

A Look Ahead:

*November 2-4
Ecumenical Scripture Institute
Riley & Underwood Lodges*

*December 28-29
Staff Reunion
Underwood Lodge*

*December 29-30
SNAP Reunion
Underwood Lodge*

Did You Know?

Sidney Dining Hall was built for approximately \$36,000 in 1956.

Sky Lake

501 William Law Road
Windsor, New York 13865
607.467.2750
FAX: 607.467.4612
skylake@pronetisp.net
www.skylakecenter.org

HUNDREDS TURN OUT FOR FALL FESTIVAL

A cold, gray morning made way for an afternoon of sun and fun at Sky Lake on Sunday, October 5th. An estimated 600-700 folks turned out for our annual fundraiser for the Campership Fund.

There were few dull moments between bites of baked potatoes and slices of pie! Coleen Wright, "The New Testaments", "Three Doctors and a Tenor", and Lael Bagg provided everyone with wonderful musical entertainment. Visitors were able to witness (and in some cases participate in) old-fashioned demonstrations in whittling, apple pressing, pet hair spinning, water color painting, blacksmithing, pysanky (Ukrainian) egg decorating, and Moravian star folding.

Also, as part of the Fall Festival, 28 youth groups took part in the Second Annual Scavenger Cup Challenge, with Bethany UMC taking home the highly sought after cup. The Scavenger Cup Challenge has become one of the biggest gathering of youth in our conference! Now the question is, did *anyone* find an ostrich feather!?!
The Bethany UMC Youth Group



Altogether, over \$2400 was raised for the Campership Fund. It is nice to know that campers unable to afford camp will still be able to attend Sky Lake. Thank you to all our demonstrators, volunteers, contributors, and especially to everyone that made a pie!

ESI IS ALMOST HERE!

This year's Ecumenical Scripture Institute at Sky Lake is quickly approaching. Participants in the November 2-4 retreat will have the opportunity to explore "The Parables" with Father Addison Wright and fellow retreatants. E.S.I. is open to all those who possess an interest in furthering their understanding of Scripture. Frank and open dialogues, along with ample time for study, worship, and fellowship with people from a variety of denominations, help to make E.S.I. a meaningful and enriching experience.

Several accommodation packages are available for those who wish not to commute.

EMBERS ON THE HEARTH

For a while there, I was beginning to think that this autumn might be a dud! Even as late as the Fall Festival on Sunday, the leaves had hardly begun to change color. Were the skeptics right? Would the leaves simply dry up and fall off the trees without a spectacular color show this year!?! Then it happened... The other morning, as I was headed to the office, I noticed patches of orange and red and yellow peeking out at me. The right conditions finally arrived and the woods began to explode with color!

Seeing the beautiful autumnal display got me to thinking about the other season at Sky Lake that is well-known for major change—summer. Like the leaves this autumn, campers lives have been known to go from dry and dull to brilliant and on-fire-for-God in a matter of a few days. It's an amazing transformation to experience, as well as to watch! Applications to be a volunteer or paid staff member will be available next month.