

## A Brief History of Camp Little Cloud

**Where did the Camp Little Cloud name come from?** Camp Little Cloud got its name from the Fox Indians' nickname for Julien Dubuque. Julien Dubuque was a short, French Canadian fur trader that befriended the Fox Indians in Northeast Iowa along the Mississippi River. The Fox's nickname for Julien in French was "La Petite Nuit" or in English "Little Cloud". Since Julien was instrumental in settling the town/city of Dubuque, the first Girl Scout council in the area took the Indian nickname of the city's founder, Little Cloud.

In 1949, the original 110 acres were purchased and donated by Harry Wahlert. In this same year, a capital drive paid for the erection of the Lodge, pump house (with 600' well) and two tent units. In 1950, the first summer camp took place, 40 girls were in attendance. In 1963, a capital campaign was launched with Ted Ellsworth as chairperson. \$67,000 was used to pay for a swimming pool, the Cedars building (an all-weather troop house) and the NaWaKwa tent unit.

In 1967, \$3,767 was donated by E. B. Lyons, which resulted in a 30' x 35' addition to Lodge kitchen. Upgrades to ceilings, lighting and ventilation were also made. In 1968, the health center was built and in 1970, the Director's cabin was built. In 1973, under the presidency of Joan Briggs, capital funds paid for the erection of a second winterized cabin. The Oaks, a two-story, 40' x 60' building was built by Tom O'Dowd, with the help of Albert and Eddie Deutmeyer and Leonard Strum. Construction of the caretaker's home also began. The caretaker's home was completed in 1974. Tom O'Dowd was hired to build, maintain and live at camp in this same year.

In 1976, the Four Seasons winterized cabin was donated by the Dyersville National Bank. The building was moved from the bank site to the camp. A basement and an addition to the first floor took place in the process of resetting the building. In this same year, local 6th graders began to benefit from an outdoor education program made possible by Girl Scouts President Sharon Barr.

Beginning in 1981, the Shagbark building (which houses offices, an assembly room, a kitchenette, a trading post and a large room for troop camping/meetings) was built. Between 1981 and 1983, a new filter system for pool was installed. In 1983, a major overhaul of the pool took place, which included the rework of shallow end, a new dressing room, a new pipe, a new filter building and a cement tunnel.

In March, of 1987, Tom O'Dowd left as camp caretaker. Dave Ziegenfuss (Ziggy) was hired in June.

On November 13, 1989, the Oaks building was destroyed by a fire.

In 1996, after a \$1.16 million capital campaign, the Lodge was remodeled extensively. Changes included a walk-in freezer/cooler, geothermal field and HVAC units, and a back deck and front entryway. The Lodge was renamed Singing Bird Lodge by Alice who contributed \$250,000 to the campaign.

Beginning in 1996, after the Lodge was finished, other projects were completed as part of the capital campaign. These projects included: the Sunshine Unit House, which was demolished and rebuilt to match the Lodge. This new building was designed and built by Tim Pancratz Construction. Poplars was also renovated. Changes included a new wrap-around deck, larger windows, bunk beds, opening of the floor plan, and updating the walls, flooring and lighting. This work was carried out by the Navy Reserve Seabees and camp maintenance staff.

A new maintenance building was constructed, which included four bays, an office and a bathroom with a shower. This work was completed by Portzen Construction. Cedars building was also remodeled. Changes included new bathrooms, roofing, chimney repair, and deferred maintenance. Four Seasons was re-engineered so a weight-bearing wall could be removed, which opened up the upstairs. The rest of the building was updated and the steps to the deck were replaced.

Whispering Pines enjoyed a face lift upstairs: a bunk room was created and the old fireplace was replaced with a newer, more modern one. The amphitheater (stage and benches) was created as a central gathering point. Whippoorwill Woods received platform tipis with custom bunk beds. The unit house was replaced to match the

Lodge. Shagbark was renovated. These changes included: the addition of a small trading post, addition of bunk rooms, fireplaces, handicap accessibility, roofing and complete finishing of the previously open lower level. Miscellaneous infrastructure and utilities were upgraded. Updates included water lines, telephone system, trails, electric lines, drainage, new shingle on various buildings and renovation of fire circles.

In 1999, Deb Stork was hired as Camp Director following Jill Frey who served as Camp Director for nine years. In 2001, Microscopes and telescopes were purchased through the "2001: A Camp Odyssey" grant funds.

Beginning in 2002, the Health Center was renovated and horse equipment was purchased with the help of the Optimist Club. A six-wheel Gator with med/bed was purchased through a grant from the Dubuque Racing Association. The road to the pond was paved through this grant as well. A paved multi-purpose pad (basketball, ice rink) and basketball standards were purchased thanks to several donors. High speed internet and a computer lab were added in Shagbark for researching trips, science related activities, and other program purposes. A new entryway and directional signs through camp were purchased with Dubuque Racing Association grant money.

In 2005, the 41 year old pool was replaced. The new pool boasted of underwater lights, heated water and a brand new circulation system. The project cost \$300,000.

In 2007, the Little Cloud Council merged with three other councils in eastern Iowa and western Illinois to become the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois. Dave Ziegenfuss resigned, and Mike Capek was hired as the new camp ranger/site manager in July.

In October of 2008, Internet cable was trenched in from Shagbark building to the ranger's office in the maintenance shed. In February of that same year, a "new" 2003 ¾ ton truck with snow plow was acquired for camp to replace the aging, 1998 ½ ton truck. In April, five new tipis were bought for Whippoorwill with capital funds to replace rotting, patched older ones. In May, five new 4-sided picnic benches were purchased by McGraw Hill of Dubuque and assembled by McGraw Hill's Global Volunteer Day workers. Older wooden picnic benches received a fresh coat of paint on the same work day. In August, old, wooden, horse pasture fencing along the road and camp's driveway was replaced with new round style fiberglass fencing from TJ's Fencing in Harper's Ferry, IA. This was made possible thank to the Dubuque Racing Association award of a \$2,500 grant.