



Onaway Area Schools Alumni Association

September 2010
Volume 14

Scholarships Awarded

The 2010 OASAA scholarships went to two very deserving graduates: Lynsey Lyle and Taylor Bruning. Taylor is the son of Shelley and Scott Bruning. He will attend Alpena Community College to study CAD drafting and design technology. Lynsey is the daughter of Robert and Michele Lyle. She is headed for a career in physical therapy

at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Both of these 2010 OHS grads were involved in many school activities and volunteer programs, and they represent well the OASAA scholarship requirements of service, character, and leadership.

Fourth Festivities

Alum of the Year Karan Pregitzer was a very popular choice. On the Fourth, Karan spent time in the alum tent, meeting old friends and reminiscing. He had to take time out to ride in the parade, but afterward he was back to receive his award and to meet still more old friends. Many people remember Karan as band director, but he was also a long-time speech teacher, debate coach, and business owner in Onaway (he built and ran what is now the Woodwinds restaurant). Still an active member of the community with his

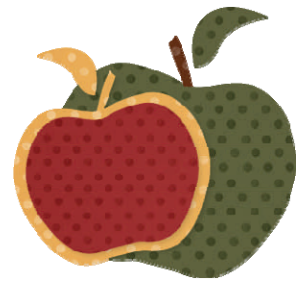
wife Caroline, Karan demonstrates what a dedicated Onaway grad can accomplish in his home town. Onaway has certainly been enriched by his efforts in both education and civic projects.

Pictures in this newsletter show the variety and scope of people who stopped in at the alum tent on the Fourth. Thanks to Pat Kondratko for the pictures. There are lots more on the website, OASAA.org.

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Alum of the Year Karan Pregitzer (1947) with Jon & Sue Nelson (1974)



Email Newsletters

In order to save mailing costs, all alumni who have email will receive newsletters by email. They can be found on our website, <http://OASAA.org>. Any member wants a print copy of a particular newsletter may request it by

mail or on the website, and we will send one. Please keep your email current so you don't miss notification. You can update us by sending a message through the website.

A Teacher We Remember

Mildred Everingham was well into her 90s when she died this year, but if she was ever your teacher, chances are she remembered you. She kept pictures of many of the students she'd had over her career, and she knew not only their names, but often who they married, where they lived, and how well-behaved (or not) they had been as students.

Mildred was born Mildred McAtee on August 24, 1914 on the family farm in Allis Township. She married neighbor Percy Everingham in 1937 and moved about a half mile down the road to his farm. The couple raised five children (Faye, Kenneth, Larry, Patricia, and Don), and also helped the elder Everinghams, who also lived on the property, cope with age and infirmity.

Mildred went to County Normal for a year after high school and began teaching in 1935. She began her career in Allis Township but also taught at North Allis and Tower. Over the years she took classes from Central Michigan University whenever it was possible, and she received her bachelor's degree in 1964.

When her family began to grow, Millie took several years off but returned to teaching in 1962. She worked at outlying schools, mostly Forest Township and North Allis, before coming to the Onaway Elementary School in 1966. It was a change from teaching many grades to teaching one, but she enjoyed her little ones, usually early elementary students.

She had a knack for making learning fun, and her classroom was always abuzz with activity.

In retirement, Mildred was as busy as a person can be. She loved to fish and passed her love of fishing on to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. You might see her car pull into your driveway and she'd say, "I'm heading out to the lake. Would ___ like to go fishing?" And that child could count on a great day learning the art of catching perch. She'd even take the bullheads off your line and throw them back for you!

Mildred could often be found in her garden, and friends and family were often recipients of its bounty and her baking/cooking skills. Visitors to her home could count on a fresh slice of pie or a molasses cookie, and you never had to ask. It was offered as soon as you came in the door.

And of course there are the quilts. Mildred took up quilting in earnest in retirement and produced hundreds of beautiful, warm blankets and lovely quilted pillows. She gave away everything she made and insisted that they were to be used, not kept for show.

Onaway has been blessed with many excellent "home grown" teachers. Mildred Everingham is an excellent example of our local talent: caring, creative, and clever teachers.

Memorials

Memorial donations made recently include several in memory of Betty Larson Horrocks Holmes, who died July 23, 2010. A long-time friend of education and the

city of Onaway, Betty will be remembered for her hard work, dedication, and wonderful sense of humor.

Website Information

Thanks to the efforts of webmaster Patrick Kondratko, the OASAA website has been improved. Hopefully we have stopped those pesky ads for cheap prescription drugs from cluttering our guest list. Messages will now go to a board member before they are posted, so only real alums can post. Pat will also begin posting scheduled meetings, so

any member who is interested in attending will know when and where. As always, we are looking for people interested in joining the board and/or signing on to help with events. If you have an interest, try attending a meeting. You will be welcome!

Class Spotlight-1997

The Class of '97 was energetic, creative, and possibly a little crazy to attempt all the things they did. They started their senior year by making six brand new teachers do the Macarena AND the Alligator at a pep rally. The fall was filled with the usual events, including Homecoming, the fall biggie. Students focused on helping others, and many events that year were both fun and productive, such as a canned food drive, Shamrocks for Leukemia, and highway pickup in the spring.

Athletics was a big deal to this class, and the teams were large and enthusiastic. The year's teams included cheerleaders in two seasons, football players, girls' and boys' basketball, wrestling, volleyball (varsity, JV, and freshmen), girls' and boys' track, baseball, softball, golf, and one brave woman, Amber Elowsky, in cross-country. Now that's a lot of sports for one little school!

In addition, the school's clubs were very active. Drama had an ambitious year with "The Wizard of Oz" and "If These Walls Could Talk." The chorus was large enough to have its own shows. Black River Design operated an in-school

Annual Meeting

The OASAA annual meeting will be held at Moran Ironworks at 6:30 p.m. on September 20, 2010. All members are welcome to attend, and refreshments will be served.

Places We Used To Go

Weather permitting, people like to congregate outside, and one of the places to go when it's warm is Shoepac Lake. This sinkhole full of water is great for swimming, because you don't have to step in very far to get to the sink-or-swim level. For a decade or so, there was The Rope at Shoepac, which was reached by a medium length trek along an uphill trail from the boat ramp. Some clever souls had noticed a tree that leaned toward the lake in a spot where the bank was high enough to allow swinging. They attached a large rope to a high branch of that tree, which led to all sorts of attempts at diving, from beautiful, arcing swan dives to squealing, terrified drops. There were more than a few who never got up the nerve to let go at the farthest arc of their swing and ended up dragging through the sand instead of landing in the water. Shoepac's water is soft, and the top warms in the summer, but after a drop from the rope, a person could count on getting down to where the sun didn't reach and the water was COLD!

business with technology while the LOGS program worked from the tree forward, cutting, scribing, and notching logs to fit together and create log structures. Building Trades, a new course, allowed students real world experience in home construction. The ski club was huge, FHA small but active. A large and talented band worked hard under the direction of Charles Taylor, ending the year with a trip to Chicago, a visit to the Opera House, and many great memories.

It's difficult to list stand-outs in a class this active, but the students themselves chose Ryan Swett and Shannon Paulus as Most Likely to Succeed; Teresa George and Robert Carter as Most Spirited, Destiny Ransom and John Dahlman as Best Musicians, Simone Cromie and Eric Nelson as Best Artists, and Marty Mix and Amber Elowsky as Most Athletic. Many from this class have gone on to do great things for the world and the community, and the nice thing about the Class of '97 was they had such a good time doing good!

Agenda: Call to order, Reading of minutes, Treasurer's report, President's report, Old business: 501(c) 3 status, plans for football games. New business: elections (Sara LaLonde), addition of new members.

The first rope disappeared. The tree was cut down, apparently because of potential danger and a few too many parties in that spot. Soon a second rope appeared, this time the other direction from the campground. It was less steep but still allowed for a nice drop. A small group that happened to be swimming there one day witnessed the widening of the lake, right where that rope hung. For an hour or so, the ground caved in and the water's edge advanced as the earth gave way below the lake. Whole trees disappeared, sliding gracefully into the water. It was an awesome display of Nature's power, and all mankind could do was watch.

There is no rope at Shoepac anymore, and probably the world is a little safer. But those of us who swung from the rope, yelling Tarzan cries and dropping head first, feet first, or butt first, remember that wonderful feeling of free fall, waiting for the splash and ready in a few seconds to do it again.

OASAA Information

Board Members:

President Peg Herring
V.P. Laura Reid
Secretary Sara LaLonde
Treasurer Susan Nelson
Membership
Chair Sandi Everingham
Trustees Tom Moran
Marty Mix
Carl Anderson

We're on the
web:
www.oasaa.org

Contacts:
Mail: OASAA
P.O. Box 636
Onaway, MI 49765

**"Working together to
celebrate and support our
schools."**

Do You Have Memories To Share

We're always interested in member input, especially for articles on teachers you remember, places your classmates thought of as "the place to be", or Class or Alum Spotlights. If you'd like to contribute an article, you can write to us through the website <http://OASAA.org>, or send it by mail to OASAA, PO Box 636, Onaway, MI 49765. Don't worry about polishing it up, just send us the information (but please be sure it is accurate).

Alumni Tent Visitors



Brett & Janine Rachuba (1985)



Arlene Smith (1951) Etta Walters & Fred Smith (1952)



Larry Post (1966)



Larry Hyde (1960) Shirley (1956) & Dick (1954) McDonald



Jetre & Ann Cope (1951)



Ray & Ruth Szymoniak (1950)



Tom (1977) & Diane (1978) Peterman



Bob (1978) & Theresa (1980) Arkwood