

PRESS RELEASE

Prime Time Penguin Unlimited LLC



Mark H. Stowers
1933 Wickham St.
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
248.298.9444

For Immediate Release
4/23/2009

Capturing Scout Camp Memories

Royal Oak, Michigan – A spring fed pool that chilled campers to the bone, greased watermelon fights, Indian dancing, chiggers and ticks, Friday night campfires and buddy tags are all great memories of Camp Tallaha. From 1925 to 2003, the former Delta Area Council’s Boy Scout camp in Charleston, Mississippi served the Scouts of the Mississippi Delta. Thousands have spent their summers earning merit badges for Canoeing, Swimming, First Aid, and Wilderness Survival in addition to learning many other valuable life-long skills. But that all came to an end the summer of 2003 when the camp was closed.

Inverness native, Mark H. Stowers, wants to recapture those memories to help preserve the history of Camp Tallaha.

“I spent some of the greatest summers of my life on that 100-plus acre plot of woods,” Stowers said. “And so did a lot of my friends from across the Delta.”

Stowers wrote an ode to his favorite camp and placed it on his blog site (www.penguinrambling.blogspot.com) back in 2004 but while recently exploring Facebook, he decided to find some old Scout buddies.

“There are groups on Facebook for just about everything under the sun,” the Eagle Scout explained. “So I decided to create a ‘Camp Tallaha – My Boy Scout Camp’ group to see if could find anyone and talk about old times.”

Not only did he find a few, but soon more than 100 former scouts, parents, friends and others with fond memories of the camp joined the group. Soon pictures and memories were posted and chatter about the site continued to grow. Stowers knew he needed to capture more and preserve the history of the camp.

“Word was passed along and a newspaper article was put together about the site,” Stowers said. “I began getting letters from Arizona and other states about the camp. I got

tales of church camps, romance and much more I never knew about Tallaha. Then it hit me – I needed to write a book.”

A freelance writer living in Michigan, Stowers’ journalism career has spanned five states, missionary work and plenty of high school sporting events.

“I’m in the process of finding former campers and staff and anyone who has a memory of Camp Tallaha they want to share,” he said. “I’m looking for photos too. Anyone and everyone is welcome to send me their recollections.”

With so many former campers and staff spread throughout the US and the world, Stowers is seeking “point people” in Delta area communities.

“My experience is limited to the mid 70s to early 80s but there is such a long and rich history, I don’t want to leave out any important events,” he said. “So I’m looking for one or two people from every community that had or has a Boy Scout troop and attended Camp Tallaha during that 78 year history who can help ‘dig up’ anyone with memories or stories for the book.”

Aimed at preserving and telling the history of Camp Tallaha, the former Delta Area Council and the former Order of the Arrow Koi Hatachie Lodge 345, anyone interested in helping with the project should contact Stowers.

His email for the project is **camptallaha@gmail.com** and the mailing address is Mark H. Stowers, 1933 Wickham St, Royal Oak, Michigan, 48073. Please include your full name, scouting connection, address, phone number and any memories of Camp Tallaha. If you are a Facebook member, please check out “Camp Tallaha -- My Boy Scout Camp” in the group section.

Prime Time Penguin Unlimited LLC is the freelance writing company of Mark H. Stowers. The 1986 Broadcast Journalism Graduate has written for many national and local magazines (including *Delta Magazine*), newspapers (*The Enterprise Tocsin* and *The Cleveland Current* and many others) and Web sites and has interviewed everyone from high school coaches to NFL quarterbacks Jim Kelly and Phil Simms to a US General in Iraq. This is Stowers’ first book project. He also has movie and television projects currently in their initial writing and planning stages.