

Scouting Honors Adult Volunteers in Ceremony

By Scott Valcourt

ACTON – Three longtime Boy Scouting leaders were awarded the prestigious District Award of Merit Thursday, June 8 at Camp Nutter in Acton. At the same ceremony, forty Scouting leaders from York County were presented with annual training and leadership awards for service to youth.

Cubmaster John Vermette of South Berwick Pack 338, York Cub Scout Day Camp Director Diana Vermette of South Berwick Pack 338 and Assistant Scoutmaster Dennis Poisson of Saco Troop 310 received the District Award of Merit at the annual York District Adult Awards Ceremony at Camp William S. Nutter in Acton.

The Award of Merit is the highest award a Boy Scout District can present to adult volunteers who render service of an outstanding nature to Scouting at the District level.

John Vermette is a ten year veteran of the maintenance staff at the Best Western Wynwood Hotel and Suites in Portsmouth, NH. Active in Scouting at the Cub Scout and Boy Scout levels for 12 years, Vermette has been a Cub Scout Den Leader in both Somersworth, New Hampshire and South Berwick, Maine. He has volunteered at the York District Cub Day Camp for three years, teaching the Webelos Scouts how to make walking staves, as well as serving as the District Race Coordinator for three York District Pinewood Derbies. The Sanford resident is the Cubmaster of Pack 338, sponsored by the South Berwick Rotary Club.

Diana Vermette has been a Cub Scout Den Leader for four years, and has served the Cub Scouts of York District on the staff of the annual summer day camp, with the last two years as Camp Director. She has coordinated the Pack 338 South Berwick Strawberry Festival booth annually, as well as the Pack's involvement in the Memorial Day Parade in South Berwick. In addition to her Scouting involvement, Vermette is the Site Coordinator for the Kid's Club Afterschool Program at the Willard School in Sanford. Professionally, Vermette is a special education teacher in the Sanford School District. John and Diana Vermette have two sons in Scouting: Andrew, 15 and Nicholas, 10.

Dennis Poisson is a 20-year employee of the Public Works Department in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Active in Pack 310 and Troop 310 in Saco for the past 10 years, Poisson has been a Cub Scout Den Leader and a Webelos Den Leader. Outside of Scouting, Poisson has been a Little League coach, a public school volunteer, and volunteered many hours at the LaDawn Quarter Horses Therapeutic Riding Center in Dayton. Poisson has three sons in the Scouting program, with his eldest son, Justin, having recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. The Saco resident is an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 310, sponsored by the Biddeford-Saco Elks Lodge.

District Vice Chairman Clinton Staples of Shapleigh served as master of ceremonies, while District Training Committee Members Megan Segalla of York and Scott Valcourt

of Berwick, District Commissioner Ernie Wiswell of Kittery and District Advancement Chairman David Sinclair of Wells were presenters.

York District serves Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Venture Crews in York County, Maine.

Other volunteers recognized at the Thursday event:

COMMISSIONER'S AWARDS:

Dave Wade, District Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Acton
Jody Hart, District Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Springvale
Dana Wade, Assistant District Commissioner, North Berwick
Gary Berg, Assistant District Commissioner, Eliot
Dave Vining, Assistant District Commissioner, Biddeford
Liz Jagger, Assistant District Commissioner, Springvale
Lenny Niman, Assistant District Commissioner, Buxton
Bill O'Brien, Unit Commissioner, Kennebunk
Dennis Doyle, Unit Commissioner, Bar Mills
Sharon Wiswell, Unit Commissioner, Kittery
Charley LaCourse, Unit Commissioner, Biddeford
Troy Gerry, Unit Commissioner, Eliot
Lew Morin, Unit Commissioner Biddeford

TIGER CUB DEN LEADER AWARD:

Laurie Cloutier, Pack 306, Waterboro
Brandie Simms, Pack 313, Berwick
Edwina C. Sprague, Pack 321, Shapleigh
Robin Sprague, Pack 321, Shapleigh

CUB SCOUT DEN LEADER AWARD:

Lisa Bald, Pack 301, York
Michelle Strate, Pack 313, Berwick
Kara Couture, Pack 313, Berwick
Diane M. Dermody, Pack 321, Shapleigh
Dave Hammond, Pack 306, Waterboro
Michelle E. Landry, Pack 321, Shapleigh
Herbert J. Marshall, Pack 349, Buxton
Candie Mayhew, Pack 306, Waterboro
Megan Segalla, Pack 301, York

WEBELOS DEN LEADER AWARD:

Terri Blaisdell, Pack 345, Alfred
Gary Mayhew, Pack 306, Waterboro
Dennis Roy, Pack 354, Sanford

CUB SCOUTER AWARD:

Phil Lemieux, Pack 306, Waterboro
Ed Leskowsky, Pack 330, Arundel
Lori Pettry, Pack 356, Wells

CUBMASTER AWARD:

Ed Leskowsky, Pack 330, Arundel
Charlie McMeekin, Pack 354, Sanford
Tony Nevells, Pack 306, Waterboro
Arthur Payeur, Pack 349, West Buxton
Juanita Reed, Pack 301 York

BOY SCOUT LEADER'S TRAINING AWARD:

Doug Anderson, Troop 310, Saco
Bill Frederick, Troop 327, Sanford

SCOUTMASTER'S KEY AWARD:

Denis Hamann, Troop 399, Lyman

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Photo Caption: 2006 Pine Tree Council York District Award of Merit Recipients (left to right): John Vermette, Diana Vermette, Dennis Poisson.