

# Camp T gets a tree house

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

The newest addition for campers to enjoy at Camp Tecumseh YMCA is a product of a generous monetary donation by a local philanthropic organization and construction labor contributed by 40 volunteers, all of who have a connection to the camp.

"Lots of local people have ties to Camp T," said associate executive director Scott Brosman. "But we had volunteers for this who came from Montana and Boston and all points in between. They all just wanted to be a part of this

project."

The project is a tree house in the River Village and younger resident campers and day campers will enjoy it, courtesy of those who care about the camp.

"This really is an enhancement to the River Village," Brosman said. "It will be a destination hike and an overnight site for sleeping for campers between the ages of eight to 12 years old."

The project began when YMCA National Camping Consultant in Chicago Gary Forster designed the building. Plans called for it to be on the edge of the pine forest.

Delphi Lions held a retreat at Camp T in April. During a community needs discussion, Lions' president Brosman talked about the design of the project.

The Lions voted to donate the needed funds needed. Workers from REMC set the poles for the structure on April 27. The building was constructed from April 28-30 and is now ready for use.

"This will provide a wonderful new place for campers to enjoy," Brosman said. "We really appreciate all the hard work done by both the volunteers and the Lions. People really do care about this community."



## This is camping!

The newest addition for younger resident and day campers to experience was constructed this spring at Camp Tecumseh. The tree house, named for the Delphi Lions Club who donated the funds for the structure, will host overnight campers and provide a destination for day hikers. Photo provided

## Back to the future...

# The Sportsman Inn to open soon!

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

After the disappointment of the closing of the Sportsman Inn and the news of condominiums being built on the site that didn't pan out, a group of businessmen have come together to restore and re-open the much-missed Sportsman Inn. There will no longer be a place to lay one's head, but the restaurant will be "better than ever," according to manager George Wade.

"The best part of this project is all the stories people tell us about the old Sportsman," Wade said. "There is a lot of Sportsman lore."

The restaurant's re-opening is planned for mid-June and will offer seating capacity for approximately 150, including the outside deck on the lake. The boat docks will be maintained for lake-traffic.

Wade said he hopes he and the partners are creating a place to instill new memories while cherishing the old ones.

"We have researched the history



Wade

and pictures of the old establishment," Wade said. "Everybody who comes through has a unique story to tell."

Wade stated he would like to gather as many anecdotes and stories from patrons as possible. He encouraged the public to share their memories with the management staff.

Wade said there is no exit plan for the business. "We are here to stay," he said. "I think we are very financially solid."

He explained the owners are not "locked into a corporate structure" and can make needed changes when indicated. "We can move pretty fast if we need to," he said.

"I left a job in Virginia to come here and do this," he said.

Wade explained he has 20 years in the restaurant business to draw from to make this project a success. "I have cooked, I have washed dishes, and I have managed restaurants," he said.

A family connection brought Wade to the area. His wife is the sister of one of the partners and another family member lives in Indianapolis.

Wade and his wife have five children and he is looking for a permanent residence for them to occupy. Wade's family will move to Indiana in June after school ends.

The Sportsman will open in June with a restaurant and lounge. Second-floor banquet rooms are planned to open in the fall. Catering will be offered later after the business is established according to Wade.

The Sportsman Inn is located off US 421 near Monticello in Carroll County.

Wade said he is anxious to reopen the restaurant to begin a new chapter of the Sportsman's history.

## The past meets the future

Volunteer workers with historical ties to Camp Tecumseh came from many locations across the nation to help construct a large tree house. A generous financial donation from the Delphi Lions Club made the project possible for use this summer. Photo provided

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**Business Briefs**  
spend more time with my four grandchildren," said Ehrman. "I will miss all the people I have worked with over my career, both associates and clients."  
The bank at Delphi is hosting a retirement open house Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in his honor.

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