

The Avondale Advocate

Avondale Scout Reservation
Avondale Society
14433 Hwy 10 East
Clinton, LA 70722
(225) 683-3489

Special points of interest:

- History
- Projects
- Avondale Society Sign-Up Info
- Pics

History

For many years we have been gathering the lost information of the Istrouma Area Council and of our camps. We have also been researching past information on the history of the people, local land, land-owners, and points of interest. We will continue to keep researching different avenues to gather facts and stories. If anyone has a fact or story that they would like to send please contact us, we would love to hear it. Please include your resource, i.e. heard from a friend or fellow Scouter, found at library, newspaper clipping, etc.

This summer we have started passing some of this information to the Troops that have come camping here at Avondale. We hope that this will spark interest in the history of our Camp and Council and that we will not lose it again.

Here goes some brief history.

The first Boy Scout Camp in the Baton Rouge area was Camp Istrouma in Greenwell Springs, LA. The camp is located at the Indian Mound area of Greenwell Springs. The Baton Rouge Rotary Club purchased Camp Istrouma for the Istrouma Area Council, B.S.A. in 1924. Originally 80 acres was purchased by the Rotary Club for Camp Istrouma, later an additional 64 acres were acquired through various grants from the Rotary Club. The acreage of Camp Istrouma lies just north of the City of Central and is bordered by the banks of Sandy Creek to the east. Camp Istrouma was sold by the Istrouma Area Council in 1959 to the Methodist Church Districts of Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Today Camp Istrouma is still owned and operated by the Methodist Church.

In 1910, the first Boy Scout Troop was formed in Baton Rouge, that troop was Troop 1. Troop 1 is still an active troop in the Istrouma Area Council, B.S.A. The Scoutmaster was Dr. Hunter, which presumably, is where the name Camp Hunter came from on the Avondale Scout Reservation.

Istrouma Area Council is named for the area of Baton Rouge. Istrouma comes from the Indian word meaning Red Stick. There was a Cypress tree that marked the boundary between the hunting grounds of the Houma and the Bayou Goula Indians. This Cypress tree was stained red with the blood of the game that was hung and harvested by these two tribes. When LaSalle first discovered this area and noticed the red tree, he called this area Baton Rouge which in French means Red Stick.

On June 14th 1957, after out-growing Camp Istrouma and seeing the need for future growth and expansion, the council purchased 1200 acres in Clinton, LA at a cost of \$235,000. This land became the Avondale Scout Reservation. The first two years of the Reservation were filled with conservation projects, work party weekends, and weekend camp-outs. In 1957, the area between Hwy. 10 and the Dining Hall was planted with 20,000 pine trees by the Order of the Arrow and other Scout work parties.

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History—Continued

Notable facts:

Avondale Scout Reservation:

Originally purchased from the Pipes family, who owned and operated the property as "Avondale Farms, Inc." until 1957. The previous owners of the property were David and Elizabeth D'Armond and Edward Story. The D'Armond's have had the north part of the property in their family for over a hundred years. Edward Story is listed as one of the first owners of the property which is now the main part of the Reservation. The D'Armond's built the Avondale Plantation in the early 1820s which was located on the north part of the property until it was sold by the Istrouma Area Council in the late 1970s and moved about 1 ½ miles west down Hwy 10. The Avondale Plantation Home was actually moved down one of the pipeline right-of-ways and reportedly that is why the pipeline is nicknamed "Plantation Pipeline". The D'Armond's have a family cemetery located a couple hundred feet off the Avondale Scout Reservation behind Lake Istrouma.

Camp Avondale: Lake Istrouma is named after Camp Istrouma, the first I.A.C. camp. Camp Avondale has gone through a few campsite changes over the years. The most notable change happened in 2000 when all campsites were moved to one side of the main road. The Dining Hall was the first building built on camp in 1957, originally called the "Central Lodge". The Ranger's house was the second building built on camp in 1959, paid for by Gulf States Utilities and built by the Navy SeaBees. The Administration Building, "A.C. Lewis Memorial Center", was built in 1960. The Administration building was used as Camp Avondale's Trading Post in the early years of Summer Camp. The Health Lodge donated by the Baton Rouge Area Medical Society and built around 1963. The Trading Post was built somewhere around the 1920s or 30s and was originally a hunting lodge called the Possum Trot Lodge owned by the Pipes Family. The Possum Trot Lodge was originally located on Lake Istrouma where the Caddo House sits now. The building was moved to its' current location in 1969 prior to the construction of the Caddo House and has been used as the Camp Avondale Trading Post ever since. The Caddo House was built by the Order of the Arrow in 1969.

Camp Hunter:

primitive campsites between Avondale and Wood Badge Hill, named for Rev. Dr. T.M. Hunter the first Scoutmaster of Troop 1, the first Troop in Baton Rouge and reportedly the first Troop south of Memphis, TN.





Lake Tigator campsite #10 area circa 1970



Lake Tigator North side swim dock area circa 1970



Lake Istrouma area circa 1970

History—Continued



Camp Avondale Council Ring area circa 1970



Lake Istrouma swim dock area circa 1970



Lake Tigator Northwest area circa 1970



Camp Avondale Rifle Range area circa 1970

Wood Badge Hill: named for the Wood Badge course and each campsite is named for each Wood Badge Patrol.

Camp Tigator: Part of the original acquisition in 1957 of the Avondale Scout Reservation. Camp Tigator construction was started in the late 1960s with many local businesses donating labor and money for the project. Tigator Lake was built in the early '70s by the 769th Engineering Battalion, Rangers, and other volunteers and hence was named for the nickname of the 769th, "the Tigators". Camp Tigator was originally opened as an Outpost Summer Camp to be held during the same time as Summer Camp on Camp Avondale. The Outpost Camp had an Administration building, "Paul Perkins Lodge", a shower house, the "Tigator Showers", and a Trading Post and a Commissary, "The Long House". Paul Perkins Lodge was built in 1969. Plaques with the names of donors of the Tigator Project are mounted on the walls of Perkins Lodge. The Long House was built on or around 1969 and was split in half with a Trading Post on the east side of the building and a commissary on the west side. There was a working Freezer and Cooler in the commissary for the storage and distribution of food stuffs to the troops. The Outpost Summer Camp program was short-lived and only lasted two summers, due to participation.

Camp McGee: Info and pictures next issue.

Avondale Society

Since the last Advocate, many moons ago, a member suggested that the Avondale Society logo be white, so after play in MS Paint take a gander at this and send your comments.

Since the birth of the Avondale Society, we will be presenting the first 100 members from each category a "Founding Member" certificate. The "Founding Member" certificates will only be presented until the 300 positions are filled.

If you have not received your membership certificate, please contact us, we still have many of the member certificates at the Reservation.



How 'bout this?

Detach and mail in this portion

Join the Avondale Society!!

Make checks payable to:

Istrouma Area Council—Avondale Society

Mail Payments to:

Istrouma Area Council, B.S.A.

Attn: Avondale Society

9644 Brookline Ave

P.O. Box 66676

Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6676

Avondale Society Membership

Annual Membership Dues:

Price

<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold	\$100.00 +

All funds received are restricted to the improvement and maintenance of the Avondale Scout Reservation.

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail address