

er company
nted to buy
rve it. They
n offer from
ompany that
part of the

er then that
pect favorit-
tion in this
people feel
d its endow-
stolen from
?

ould stop re-
le of Silver
it "the de-
Trails," be-
t the MCC
he sale pro-
l, it will lead

destruction
gravel min-
s agree that
e of the most
in Michigan.
ine acres of
rest among
avines along
d the Black

gan Materim-
ined sand
ne north part
many years,
commitments

Black River
and I'm told
g agreement
on the prom-
convert the
s mining into
boating lake
ever kept that

ner instance
has betrayed
couting. Not
ng the camp,
tating the de-
system. Boy
ht to respect
is making a
Scouting prin-

o Trace" and
e," which was
Scout Hand-
According to
Ethics Guide,
introduced in
e importance
p with nature
sibility to be

Conserva-
onsible stew-

ardship of the environment to
preserve natural ecosystems
while ensuring that balanced
consideration is also given to
human needs."

At the info session, the
MCC speakers said several
times that local people in St.
Clair and Sanilac Counties
should not be upset because
90% of the Scouters who use
Silver Trails come from De-
troit. They said Scouters in the
Thumb will just have to drive
a little bit farther to one of the
four or five Scout camps in
Michigan they plan to retain.
But many Scout Troops will
not go that far just for a week-
end campout.

Yes, BSA and MCC are in
debt and struggling financially.
But the \$1.8 million offered by
the gravel company for Silver
Trails would only cover the
salaries of MCC staff for about
three months, according to
calculations by the Friends of
Silver Trails. Since the consol-
idation of Michigan councils,
the MCC paid staff has nearly
doubled to about 140. Em-
ployee compensation is 50%
to 65% of MCC annual ex-
penses and salaries are very
generous. The Scout Execu-
tive makes nearly \$225,000 a
year, according to online orga-
nization records.

In my opinion, this Silver
Trails travesty and tragedy,
epitomizes the destruction of
the BSA, because the orga-

nization has been taken over
by corporate centralization,
professionalization, and di-
minishment of local control
and individual rights. It is no
longer a grassroots organiza-
tion, with a uniform moral and
educational mission guiding
local programs. It has become
a hierarchical top-down cor-
poration. I believe the BSA
needs to have diversity in all
spheres: in gender, in ethnic-
ity and in regional autonomy.

In the end, I guess the
MCC has misinterpreted the
meaning of the name "Silver
Trails." To them it refers to sil-
ver's association with money,
and that's all.

Sincerely,
Fred Fuller
Assistant Scoutmaster
Troop 223, Algonac

How our Leaders have fall-
en from the Scout Law Con-
cerning the Silver Trails Sale
"Endeavor"

Trustworthy, Loyal, Help-
ful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean and Reverent.

The people at the top of
the pyramid of Scouting in the
state of Michigan seem to have
disobeyed the exact Scout
Law they promise to follow.

Trustworthy- They have
disobeyed our trust. They be-
gan this deal without any of
our knowledge, and we

Continued On Page 10

Holly Meadows
Shootout
September 22
4 person scramble
shotgun start 9am

BOWLING LEAGUES NOW FORMING
Call for Details & Reservations
810-395-4653
4855 CAPAC RD, CAPAC
WWW.HOLLYMEADOWS.COM

HOLLY MEADOWS
CAPAC, MI
Golf Course & Banquet Center

HELP WANTED - LINE COOK & WAIT STAFF

SIGN UP TODAY!