



Spring 2014

Camp Wilderness Is Growing!

For the first time since the 1940's, Camp Wilderness's acreage is growing! This is because of a generous donation from Nancy Clark, a neighboring Bad Axe Lake landowner. Nancy's donation borders the south end of the Camp Wilderness tract of land on the West side of Bad Axe Lake and it consists of 31 acres, which officially gets us over the 2,400 acre mark (prior to this new gift, "2,400 acres" was a rounded up number).

This property is one of the most beautiful tracts of land on Bad Axe Lake! Part of the property's shoreline wraps around a defined bay. The tip of the bay is shallow with a level beach. The sides of the bay facing Southeast and facing Northeast are both on hills filled with red pines. The new tract also features an abundance of white pines, some that are right on the shore. Some of the shore trees have fell into Bad Axe Lake, making this a productive fishing area.

Map is approximate- see Ranger Andy Kietzman or Council Program Director Brad Olson for specifics before you hike there. Here are pictures taken from 2 shore locations of the property:



1) Looking Southeast, towards the shallow bay at the Southeast end of the lake.

2) Looking Northeast towards Isle of Dreams and Camp Wilderness.

Alumni Week Visitors: **Physical Form Requirement Changes**

If you come for the day there is no need for a health form. If you come for the day and take part in any strenuous activities you need parts A,B and C. And if you spend the night(s) you need parts A,B and C. Summer camp is a "residence" camp as defined by National (std 503) lasting over 72 hours. And a single night at a residence camp requires those forms. Find them here: http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_abc.pdf

Jeff Brown



President's Message Spring 2014

A final note from the President of your Alumni Association.

I would like to invite each of you to Camp Wilderness for Alumni Week 2014. Alumni week will be June 29-July 5, 2014 with the Open House on July 4th. There will be a bus trip to CW on July 1st leaving the Fargo Center for Scouting at 9 a.m. returning at 4:00 pm. Our annual meeting will be on July 4th. If you plan to attend please plan in advance for your Health Form. Per National Std. H-503 you will not need a health form if you come for the day but parts A and B are recommended. If you come for the day and take part in strenuous activities you will need parts AB and C. If you stay the night(s) you will need parts AB and C. Camp Wilderness (summer camp) is a "residence" camp lasting over 72 hours. It is the length of the camp, not how long you stay, that determines your need for a health form. Please plan in advance and have your health form ready. This policy is from National and isn't an option for our staff.

As part of our annual meeting we will be electing a Board Member and Exec. Sec/President Elect. If you are interested please let us know. If you would like to recommend somebody for these positions we would also like to hear from you.

A couple of dates you may be interested in are: May 16th is Spring Gathering, June 15-21 is the first week of Summer Camp, September 12-14 is Fall Fellowship.

Camp Wilderness has received a fantastic gift from the Nancy Clark family. Nancy has deeded 31 acres, with frontage on Bad Axe Lake, to Camp Wilderness. This property borders our existing land on the west side of Bad Axe and is just west of Isle of Dreams Resort. This is a huge gift from the Clark family and will change the face of Camp Wilderness forever. This puts CW over 2,400 acres! How terrific is this!

The Dilworth Lions are at it again. They have donated funds for two left handed bolt action rifles. This will enable our staff to better teach/instruct the Scouts in our charge. Alumni member, and Dilworth Lion, Brian Norberg made the presentation to the Board of Directors and was able to secure the funding. If you know Brian, or a Lions member, please let them know how much we appreciate what they have done for CW and the Scouts in our charge. If you are a hunter/shooting enthusiast you know how much it means to have a firearm that fits and is designed for you. Thanks to Brian and the Dilworth Lions. This is the second investment in Scouting the Dilworth Lions have made in the past few months. Their previous investment allowed us to purchase a heavy duty trailer for use in our

council camps. This trailer was used for sleigh rides this winter and will be used well into the future for a variety of things. Go thank a Lion.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to be President of our Alumni Association these past 2 years. I look forward to working with incoming President Steve Lyman as well as the entire Board of Directors and alumni members. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Its been a great ride. 🙏🙏

The Bad Axe Lake Populations Grows

We're proud to announce that a pair of geese has decided to nest on Bad Axe Lake now have 3 goslings, 2 males and 1 female. And an unconfirmed rumor has it that they have named them Little Buck, Reed and Lily.



Alumni Achievement Award

The Association has developed the Alumni Achievement Award to recognize those individuals and organizations for outstanding service and contributions to the Northern Lights Council Camps over an extended period of time.

The Alumni Association seeks nominations for candidates to be considered to receive this award. Nominees may be Scouters, professional staff or those that do not have an affiliation with Scouting; or an organization that has provided exemplary monetary and/or physical support. The only stipulation is that awards cannot be considered posthumously.

Nomination application forms are on the Alumni Association page of the Council 'Northern Hi-Lites' at this link: <http://www.northernlightsalumni.com/Downloads/Alumni%20Achievement%20Award%20Form.pdf> and also a link on the 'Aurora' news letter of the Alumni Association.

Organizations (VFW, Elks, American Legions, etc) have been helpful to funding programs and equipment for our camps. Scouters are invited to coordinate with their District Executive to submit an organization from your district, for the Alumni Achievement Award.

Each year, nominations are solicited through the 'Aurora' and applications are available from the Alumni Achievement committee chair or other officers of The Association. Anyone can make a nomination by completing the Nomination For Alumni Achievement Award form and sending it to the Alumni Achievement Award Chair by June 1st of each year.

If you would like to nominate an individual or an organization for the Alumni Achievement Award, download the nomination form, fill it out and mail it to the committee chair person.

Mike Melby
1920 27th Ave S
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Email melby@aero.und.edu

The **AURORA** Interview

John Bisbee



Did you attend Camp Wilderness as a Scout?

Yes, I attended Camp Wilderness as a Scout for summer camp four different times, as well as other weekend events, such as Pa-Hin Lodge Conclaves and National Training Opportunities.

How many years have you been on staff at Camp Wilderness?

I have served on Camp Staff for only one year currently, as a Scoutcrafts Aide. I will be returning for a second year in 2014, as the Newspaper Director!

Funniest moment at camp? There are so many to choose from! One that happened fairly recently happened just last summer. I was teaching a few sessions of Citizenship in the Nation during this week, and in order to complete the merit badge, scouts must write a letter to one of their respective congressmen. I had a few scouts that went and did this, but I did not receive

word that they did. I ended up having to give them a partial merit badge. After they found this out, the scouts went from one end of camp to the other yelling "JOHN BISBEE!!!!" They went into every program area trying to find me. I don't know how they missed me, as I was in Scoutcrafts the whole time. After two and a half hours of yelling my name, trying to find me, they did on my way to closing campfire, and showed me their letters, as well as signatures from their Scoutmasters and from the 2013 Newspaper Director. I was able to sign them off, and they earned the badge! Since then, I have been able to serve in their troop as a visiting assistant scoutmaster and help them earn other merit badges!

Most moving experience at camp? My most moving experience at camp also happened this last year. I am sure there have been plenty of others, but this one is fresh in my mind. I took the time after all of the sessions on one day to help a scout on his woodcarving merit badge. He was struggling with making his neckerchief slide for the week, with how to hold it, how to hold the knife, how much pressure to use, etc...He came back during open time that evening, and we continued to work on that slide. He finished everything on time that week, and as he left, he went and placed on my binder and grid sheets the slide that we spent a lot of time working on. He came and found me at dinner that night, and told me to keep it for all of my hard work, as did his father. That scout made sure every time he saw me to say hello, and thank you for the help that I provided him. I will remember this forever, and to always give my job 100%, no matter whom may need it, or how much extra work is required.

Favorite campsite and/or location in camp? I really love the campsite Maynard Wedum, as that was where I got my first opportunity to serve as the Senior Patrol Leader for my troop during a summer camp, as well as many other experiences. I also really enjoy the OA Ceremony site at Quill Hill, with the landscape that surrounds it, especially during an OA ceremony with the tipi all lit up!

Favorite Dining Hall meal? Besides PEACHES!!!, I really enjoy the mornings at camp where we get an amazing Tri-Tator, along with some eggs, sausage, and cheese on an English Muffin, but that ties with the nights that we have lasagna!!!

Favorite summer camp activity? Being a member of the Scoutcrafts family, I really enjoyed the Tomahawk Range! I still have the first card that I was able to cut completely in half with a tomahawk in that range (In case you were wondering, it was a Queen of Spades). The amount of skill necessary to throw a tomahawk and get it to stick is really amazing, and one thing I am glad to know!





What are you doing school/work wise, when not at camp? I am currently heading into my sophomore year at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. A Bachelors Degree in Music Education is what I am planning on getting at this point. I am also performing as an oboist in the Bismarck/Mandan Symphony Orchestra and the Missouri Valley Chamber Orchestra, as well as a Technical Assistant for the Williston High School in Williston, ND!

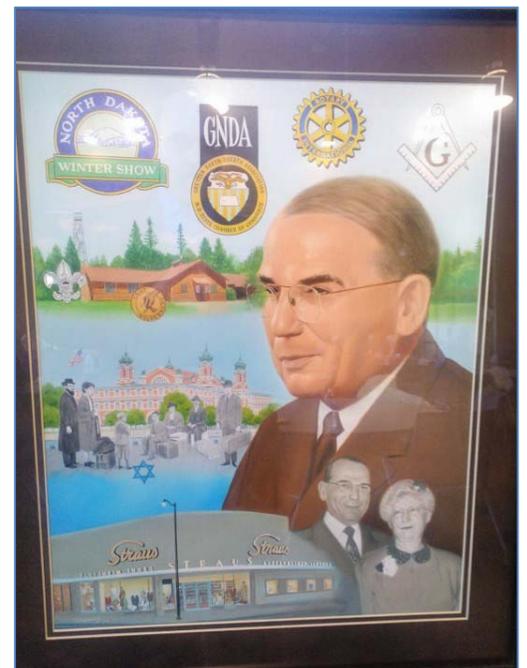
What would you tell someone that is considering working on camp staff, but still not sure? For anyone wanting to work on Camp Staff, DO IT!!! The memories and friends that you will made will stay with you forever. I still communicate quite often with people I met my first year at camp, and remember the first time that I saw those sign's signifying the start of the camp road. Being a Camp Staff member will open your eyes to a whole new side of scouting, helping those people achieve scoutings highest rank, Eagle Scout. Having just a small impact will make a huge difference in their skills, and in their overall lifestyle. This will get you to be remembered by not only other staff members, but by scouts, scouters, and parents that will offer a positive impact on your life. Work at camp, and help scouts achieve what they want to do! 🙌🙌

Herman Stern Honored

Camp Wilderness icon Herman Stern was posthumously honored in March with the Teddy Roosevelt Roughrider award. The Roughrider award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a native North Dakotan. Only about 40 have been earned since its inception. People like Lawrence Welk, Phil Jackson, Doug Burgum, Anne Carlsen and Roger Maris have been previously honored. While we are all aware of his contributions to Scouting and the founding of Camp Wilderness, his impact had a much bigger sphere of influence. It was Mr. Stern who founded the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce (GNDA) and the Winter Show in Valley City. But it was his work as a humanitarian that really set him apart.

With family and friends in Germany during the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, Stern became worried about their welfare and embarked on a mission to bring them to America. He felt it was “just an accident that I came to this country” and he and his wife, Adeline, had the “responsibility to make it possible for other people to continue to live and have an opportunity to enjoy this great country of ours, which was so good to us.”

With assistance from state leaders and the U.S. State Department, Stern made it possible for between 175 and 200 German Jews to escape the Holocaust and come to America. Each individual required a visa, a process that took weeks or months. Stern tracked each visa and contacted different agencies throughout the process to ensure the application was moving forward. He had to personally guarantee that none of the individuals would become wards of the state.



This painting was created to hang in the ND Capital. A replica of this painting will also be installed in the Camp Wilderness Dining Hall

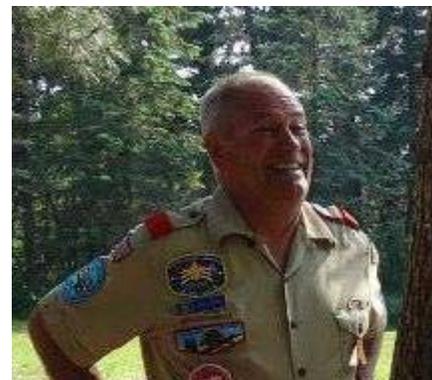
The **AURORA** Interview

“Old Timer” Special

Neil Litton

Did you attend Camp Wilderness as a Scout?

My first trip to Wilderness was the summer of '69. We stayed in Crow Campsite with Troop 346 from Wahpeton. Henry Knight and Duane Ballweber were the Scoutmasters. Continued to attend Wilderness throughout the 70's. Worked on staff in the Middle 70's. Returned to Camp in the 80's as a Scoutmaster from Casselton. Worked as a Commissioner in the 90's. Came back as a Scoutmaster from Fargo in 00's. Now continue to come to Wilderness as an Alumni, both in the Summer and Winter.



How many years have you been on staff at Camp

Wilderness? Summer of '76 at Wilderness at the Commissary Director. 77 at Wabaunaquat at the Quartermaster and Wilderness was hired as the Wrangler.

Funniest moment at camp? While on staff – Anniversary song to the Director (Mike Murphy) and his wife (Lyn). You need to ask the Murphy's. As a Scoutmaster – Who put the dust in my trailer, my trailer, my trailer, Who put the dust in my trailer, pepper, pepper, pop. As an alumni – you need to ask Ranger Andy.



Neil's version of Duck Dynasty- He makes the rounds every year to check on the Camp's many wood duck houses.

Most moving experience at camp? Receiving my Vigil by North Star Campsite along the Green trail by Reed Lake.

Finishing the new Cabin 3 and being the first to sleep in it with my son Joe. On the sad but moving note, putting the ashes of my friend Hippie (Andy Hoffman) in Bad Ax Lake and Steve Werpys in Reed Lake.

Favorite campsite and/or location in camp? Cabin 4 – I lived in for the summer of 76. Klamath (MW)

Favorite Dining Hall meal? John Lein's – Mac and Cheese (Ask Chuck Rickart or Harpo)

Favorite summer camp activity? Trail riding with the horses.

What are you doing school/work wise, when not at camp? Teaching Marketing and Computer at Central Cass High School (Starting year 34 next Fall). Director of North Dakota Boys State, have been with the program since the summer of '75. North Dakota Leadership seminar. Officiating Football (since '78), Wrestling (since '78) and umpiring softball (since '80)

What would you tell someone that is considering working on camp staff, but still not sure? Do It!

You will make friends for Life. The group that I was on camp staff with in '76, still get together annually for almost 40 years. You will not be able to say that about your high school friends. As an alumni I have had great friends over the years. 🙏🙏

Camp Reminiscencing From Harpo.....

Tim "Harpo" Anderson from Ada, MN, worked on staff in the mid 1970's. Among his stints was that of Nature Director, back when the Nature Building was a shed, with a fiberglass green roof and set next to the road in the clearing where the Huron/Mataga latrine now stands. In the comments below, Harpo is responding to Neil's "interview", that Neil shared ahead of time. Harpo also cc'd Alum's Chuck Rickart and Terry Cole in his reply.

Very cool

The Camp Wilderness staff & experience, were the best of my life too. Mike Murphy had a lot to do with that. Was this for the Alumni newsletter? I know that I really enjoyed the 40th Camp Celebration we did, with Murphys and all of Litton family. THAT IS SOMETHING, the four of us should do: the next big Camp Anniversary.

And Dead On, about friends . . .

I don't see much of my High School friends. But I still see the three other Vigil and Eagle Scouts that I met in 1976. Chuck and I had a year or two on you and Terry. We were CITs at wilderness in the summer of 1974. I remember because, Nixon and Watergate happened big that summer. We missed most of it, being so isolated at camp. Terry, you started there in 1975, correct?

When I was a CIT in 1974, they put Scott Hooper and I in a tent by the horse.

We were to protect the horse from the bear and keep an eye on the animals. Dam, that was a stupid idea.

Neil, John Laskey and I were cabin mates in 1976. I remember listening to Elton John and David Bowie.

And Shark and Whitey's stereo too, in the staff cabins. Camp, Emmaville, Bemidji and the entire area hold special memories.

Let alone "Thumper's Point"."

Take care Bros.

Harpo

Alumni Association Upcoming Events & Dates

6/3/14 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo

6/29-7/5/14 Alumni Week Camp Wilderness- **Need A,B,C Physical forms if staying overnight.**

7/1/14 9:00AM-4:00PM: Visit to Camp Wilderness- Leave Center For Scouting at 9 back by 4

7/4/14 All Day: Open House Visitation at Camp Wilderness

8/5/14 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo

8/15/14 Deadline Fall Aurora - Articles to Steve Shark at: stevesharknd@gmail.com

9/2/14 5:15PM-6:00PM: Update on Scouting's High Adventure Bases

9/2/14 6:30-9:00PM: Alumni Social Old Chicago- Fargo

Aurora Spring 2014

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Much More!



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“Staff Today, Alumni Forever”