

Aurora

A newsletter of the Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association
June 2005

Letter from the President

Allow me to introduce myself, I have worked at Camp Wilderness for six seasons and will work there again this summer. I started out, as I am sure many of you did, in the kitchen and have moved to being the COPE Director the past couple of years. I have made several hundred friends at camp, as I am sure most of you have as well.

As many of you know, this year's fundraiser will be for the Scholarship fund that Nate Trunell is setting up for our camp staff. The executive board earlier this fall approved it as our project for the year with a goal of raising \$2,000. The plan is that this will help the staff member as he or she works towards their goal of a higher education. I hope that every member is willing to help out. So far we have raised almost half of our goals and will hopefully be able to reach the goal by 4th of July.

The alumni association will again be sponsoring Alumni Week at Camp Wilderness as well as the Fall Fellowship and the Staff Week activities. Look for more information in this and upcoming Auroras.

We always welcome new ideas and improvements for organization or if you have any questions feel free to email me at Dexterminn@aol.com or call me at (218) 333-7921 until May 15.

Sincerely
Steve Lyman
President, The Association

2005 Alumni & Staff Spring Gathering

Mark your calendars! This year's Alumni and Staff Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, June 4 at Camp Wilderness. On Saturday alumni and staff members will have the opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new members of the 2005 camp staff.

In 2004, the Spring Gathering format was changed a bit to be more of a "get to know you" event for the incoming staff members. To kick off the night, a large group of staff members and alumni went out to dinner at Companero's for a great Mexican meal. Following dinner, everyone was invited for some s'mores and soda at an informal campfire at Fox campsite. Staff and alumni spent the night relaxing around the fire and exchanging stories about past summers. The campfire and dinner were great icebreakers for the new staffers that were joining the Wilderness family.

This year we will be doing the same thing. Everyone who attended enjoyed the casual atmosphere of the evening. During the day, alumni and staff members can help with preparation of camp by assisting with projects that Ranger Andy and Brad Olson come up with. Alumni and staff can also feel free to walk around the camp and see all of the new improvements!

For alumni that are planning on staying overnight, campsites are available at camp for you to set up your tent, park your RV or sleep under the stars. Please check with Andy or Brad ahead of time. Please note that cabins will be unavailable due to the incoming staff members.

As always, hotel/motel accommodations can be found in nearby Park Rapids or Walker.

As a reminder, the purpose of the Alumni Spring Gathering is threefold. First, the alumni have an opportunity to help prepare Camp Wilderness for the summer camping season. The second purpose is to get to know the current staff members and to share your stories, tips and ideas with them. Finally, and most importantly, we are all there to have fun. If you have any questions or ideas for the Spring Gathering, please do not hesitate to contact me at misaari@charter.net. Have a great spring and I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Wilderness,
Matt Saari



Wilderness Buys New Truck

A new truck was purchased for maintenance at Wilderness early this year. It is a brand new 2005 Dodge Heavy Duty 2500. This truck will become the primary maintenance vehicle for the Camp all year. It has a Hemi Magnum V-8 engine, work style interior, and a heavy front axle for use with a snowplow. The truck was purchased from Ward Muscatell in Fargo-Moorhead.

The new truck will replace the red Dodge 1500 as the main work vehicle, but the red truck will be used around camp in other capacities and is also going to be the main truck for towing the Council's new portable climbing tower. The black GMC S-15 was sold to make room in the fleet for the new Dodge.

This is the first truck the camp has purchased new since the green flatbed dump truck was bought in 1973. That truck is still in use at Camp today, now entering its 32nd season of service. Hopefully, the new Dodge will hold up as well!



Camp Receives New Snowmobile from Arctic Cat

In January, Dannon and I went to Thief River Falls and met with Art Heinze for a trip to Arctic Cat Headquarters. We were joined there by several volunteers from the Thief River area for a special donation to the Camp. Arctic Cat president Chris Twoomey personally came out to hand the keys and the title for a BRAND NEW 2005 Arctic Cat Bearcat to me.

The snowmobile is a top-of-the-line maintenance and work machine. It has a 660 cc 3 cylinder 4 stroke engine, and is equipped with an extra-long extra-wide track to allow for maximum traction while pulling the camp trail groomer on the ski trails and sledding hill. It is also a two seater, with ample room for hauling a second person or lots of equipment around camp. This machine is ideal for the work it does at camp!

Arctic Cat has had a history of generous donations of snowmobiles to the camp in the past for maintenance purposes. This is the 3rd machine I have had the privilege of operating since I started as ranger here in 2000. It is a fine piece of equipment, and we are very fortunate to have Arctic Cat's support!

Andy Kietzman
Camp Wilderness Ranger

**2004 In Review:
A look at Camp Wilderness
Property Improvements**

Well, another year has already passed and I am once again amazed at all the things that were accomplished at camp last year. 2004 proved to be a great year for property improvements at camp, and I wanted to run down the list of the major items with you so that you could see all that was undertaken last year.

- ~New log pavilion constructed and roofed by the dining hall
- ~Old outside youth showers demolished and new youth showers constructed in main camp. Landscaping around the new showers was also completed.
- ~New campsite pavilions constructed in North Star, Gilwell, and Van Schaick campsites.
- ~Old recycling shed demolished and new recycling shed constructed near dining hall.
- ~New cross country ski trails roughed out, timbered and bulldozed for use this winter.
- ~New parking lot constructed near Rotary Hill area.
- ~Significant improvements made to Chapel in the Pines.
- ~Cabin 12 gutted and remodeled.
- ~New steel roofing installed on cabins 9, 11 and 13, the flammable storage shed, the COPE storage shed, the low COPE storage shed, and the wood rack in the maintenance yard.
- ~New fishing pier constructed and installed below Ojibwa campsite.
- ~Boat ramp ice damage was repaired and the ramp rebuilt.
- ~New area was roughed out for the move of the Low COPE area.
- ~Repairs to the rifle range and backstop were undertaken.
- ~Thousands of new trees planted throughout camp.
- ~Moved the walk-in freezer from the summer trading post to the toy box in the maintenance area for mouse proof equipment storage.
- ~Improved teaching areas around the Lavold Nature Center through conservation projects and forest management.

That covers the big improvements to camp last year. It is always amazing to me what can be accomplished by the fantastic volunteers of the Northern Lights Council. Everything on this list was accomplished thanks to volunteers who gave of their time, talents, materials, or money to make great things happen here at the camp. You deserve the credit for these things.

2005 is going to be an even bigger here at camp! More main camp improvements, as well as the beginning of construction for our new Cub Scout facility will be getting underway. It is an exciting time for the Camp and the Council, and I encourage you all to check out these new additions as you have time.

See you at Camp!
Andy Kietzman
Camp Wilderness Ranger



**Parents, Alumni, and Friends of
Camp Wilderness**

I would like to invite you, your family, and others interested in visiting Camp Wilderness to attend our Open House on July 8th.

The 13th Annual Open House will be Friday, July 8th with registration starting at 1:00 PM. Activities will include tours of the camp, a complementary picnic style meal at 5:10, and a closing campfire. The campfire will start at 9:00 PM and finish around 9:45 PM and will contain a combination of skits, songs, and awards for the troop.

The Open House is a special day that the Camp Staff Alumni Association and Camp Wilderness set aside to show off the camp program in action. The 2004 season was an overwhelming success with an attendance of 2,000 Boy Scouts and 400 adult leaders coming

from over 180 troops from 10 states and a couple of different countries -- another record breaking year. Another impressive fact is that our camp has the talents of 60 staff members and 30 counselors-in-training. Many programs are offered at camp including: archery, rifle shooting, black powder, skeet shooting, canoeing, sailing, rowing, sail boarding, kayaking, swimming, fishing, crafts, first aid, camping, cooking, climbing, Project C.O.P.E., biking, and learning about nature. Check out the new "Aqua Jump" down at the waterfront and our new kitchen.

If you're interested in coming all you need to do is call the camp at (218) 732-4674; leave a message for Brad Olson of who and how many are coming. It is important that we know how many are coming as food needs to be prepared and guides need to be recruited for the tours.

If you need a place to put your tent or park your RV? Please, reserve a spot with Brad Olson, Camp Director, before July 1. The camp's phone number is (218) 732-4674.

If you are unable to attend the Open House on the 8th but, would still like to visit at a different date please call the camp and make other arrangements. You are always welcome to come and visit. Feel free to pass this information on to others interested in visiting Camp Wilderness.

See you on the 8th at Camp Wilderness!

Neil Litton
Northern Lights Camp Staff Alumni Association

Where Are They Now?

Camp Wilderness celebrated Autumn in the spring. On April 16th, Andy and Dannon Kietzman has a baby girl which they named Autumn. Andy has been the camp ranger since 2000, and his wife Dannon has worked several summers on the waterfront staff and also worked as a teacher in the off season. We wish them the best of luck and know Autumn has two great parents!

Scott Ralston worked at camp from 1999 – 2001. He worked as trail crew director, shooting sports director and various other

positions. In the last year, Scott got married, graduated from NDSU with a Masters of Zoology degree and is now working for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Devils Lake, ND. He has also taken on the duties of publication chair for the Aurora.

All Roads- Trails Lead to Rome Camp

Want to find your way around camp or explore new areas you haven't been to? An updated camp map has been created. Former staff member Scott Ralston used GPS and digital mapping technology to create an up-to-date topographic map of all major camp trails, roads, camp sites and other features. Maps are available to view and download from the internet at <http://skralston.com/Scott/Camp/>. If you have a specific map need for camp, custom maps can also be created with various scales and layers including elevation, 3-d topography, trails and other feature layers or aerial photo backgrounds. Various image resolutions can also be created if you plan on enlarging the map and still want to keep high image quality. Contact Scott for any further questions at Scott@skralston.com.

New Members

If you are a new member and would like your name listed in the next Aurora so others may get to know you, please send your name and if desired a short description of yourself to the publication chairperson.

Scott@skralston.com

Update Your Address

If you or another staff member you know has had a change of address, don't forget to update your information. Contact Chris Soper to get your new information in our member database (see attached 2004 Officers for contact information). Thank you!



Ways to Get Involved

Involvement in the Alumni Association can take on many forms depending upon your time availability. Some members simply join and read the newsletter. Others join a committee, participate in the events, or become elected officials and serve for several years. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

Write an article for The Aurora: Pick a topic, a memory, a story, or any interesting topic and send it to the Publications Committee Chair.

Join a Committee: Serve as a member of a committee by contacting the committee chair or any officer of The Association.

Nominate Someone for The Alumni Achievement Award: Complete the nomination form and send it to the Alumni Achievement Committee Chair.

Participate in one of The Association events: Attend or help with the Staff Week, Open House, or Fall Fellowship events. Look for information in The Aurora or contact the respective committee chair.

Send Birthday Cards to staff members: We are looking for someone who will get a list of birthdays for each year's staff and send him or her a birthday card. Contact The Association President if you are interested.

Help update the Alumni Roster: We are in the process of assembling a roster of all the people who have worked at one of the Northern Lights Council Camps. If you would like a copy of the lists that we have for the years that you worked,

please contact Chris Soper at (913) 221-7252 or Email him at levelboy@hotmail.com.

Help put mailing labels on The Aurora: We always need help putting mailing labels on the newsletter. Contact the Publications Committee Chair for details.

Become an officer of The Association: If you would like to become heavily involved in the business of The Association, consider running for election. Contact any of the officers for information.

Vote on one of The Association projects: Help select projects, execute, and generate funds for Alumni Association projects. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Memories from Camp: Jot down your fondest memories from camp in story or in letter form so that we can compile a book at some point.

Start a Local Chapter: Locate other alum in your area and host a social event. Contact any of The Association officers for information.

Insert Your Idea Here: The sky is the limit; we welcome all ideas, projects and services. Contact any of The Association officers for information. Articles for upcoming publications can be sent to:

Scott Ralston
714 5th Avenue NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301
Scott@SKRalston.com

Electronic submissions are preferred.

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- A. The Alumni Achievement Award is an award presented by the Northern Lights Council Camps Alumni Association.
- B. The award is available to people who render service of an outstanding and considerable nature to the Northern Lights Council camps on all levels over an extended period of time.
- C. The award is made available annually on the basis of one award per year. However, the committee can choose to present the award to two or more individuals or a group.
- D. It is not appropriate to nominate an individual who has already received this award.
- E. This award is open to any individual regardless of scouting registration. A nominee is not limited to camp staff alumni.

Requirements

- A. A nominee must have rendered noteworthy service to all the Northern Lights Council camping properties.
- B. The nominee's attitude toward all camp properties owned by the Northern Lights Council, past and present, shall be taken into consideration.
- C. Consideration must be given to the nominee's service position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that position.
- D. Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

Procedure

- A. Annually, the President of the Northern Lights Council Alumni Association will appoint a chairman to the Alumni Achievement Award committee. The chairman will then solicit no less than five persons to serve on the committee. The committee will consider all candidates and make recommendations of those to receive the award to the Alumni Association Board.
- B. The Alumni Association Board then approves the recommendation of the committee and informs the committee of the approval. In the case where the nominee is not approved by the board, the committee shall present another candidate.
- C. The final recommendation to the board shall be completed no later than July 4th of each year. Recognition shall occur within six months of the final recommendation.
- D. The Alumni Achievement Award committee shall then be responsible for updating the recognition plaques(s) and the creation of the plaque given to the recipient.
- E. The following procedures is suggested for such presentation ceremonies:
 - a. Consideration should be given to the location and timing relating to the service of the individual.
 - b. Care should be given such that the presenter and presentation of the award will add significant meaning to the recipient.
 - c. A suitable plaque for each recipient should be prepared conveying the individuality of the individual and the uniqueness of their service.
 - d. A picture shall be included in the association archives. Recognition shall be promulgated thorough the council and alumni association members.

Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps
Membership Application

The purpose of The Association: to preserve and promote the camping opportunities at our council camps; to inform the membership of the camps current progress; to provide support for the current operations with our time; talents and assets; and to organize gatherings of the association. Membership is open to all past camp staff members, campers or anyone with an interest in the camps.

Association dues are \$ 15.00 per year for annual membership, \$ 25.00 or more annually for Sustaining memberships or \$ 150.00 (one time) Life Memberships. The Association's dues year begins July 4.

Please complete the information requested below and mail to:

Alumni Association of the Northern Lights Camps
301 South 7th Street
Fargo, ND 58103
PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Home phone _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Year(s) at camp: Camper _____
 Leader _____
 Staff position(s) and year(s) _____

Count on me to help with the association.

I'll help with: Membership _____ Steering Committee _____ Newsletter _____ Whatever _____

Tell us something about yourself (this may get printed in a future issue of the newsletter.)

Enclosed are my membership dues and/or contribution: \$15 ___ \$25 ___ other ___
Lifetime Membership \$150 ___ Lifetime paid in full ___ or 3 annual payments of \$50 ___
Address Change Only _____

Make checks payable to: Northern Lights Council BSA