

AURORA

A Newsletter of the Northern
Lights Camps Alumni Association

March, 2003

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I sit here this evening taking a well deserved break from the Legislative session in Bismarck and my thoughts turn to friends and family. My Camp friends and family that is. The year is rushing by and I hope that all of you are taking the time to think about the council camps that you have worked at over the years, and are thinking of what you can do for them.

There is a lot of unfinished business on the table, and projects that the Camp and the Association are undertaking. There is the Brick campaign going on, which I hope that all of you can look into assisting. With the projects underway to finish off the interior of the dining hall, a paved courtyard in front of the doors will be of greater importance. There is also the Camp Capital campaign and countless volunteer efforts that we can engage in to make the Camp a better place.

When I remember of all of the things associated with the Camp, and all of the things that the people associated with the Camp have thought me, I think that there must be something I can give back. Please take a minute to think about what you can do to help keep us rolling. Projects such as finding a few new members, or donating your time, or money, to a few well deserved projects at the camp.

When I worked on the Friends of Scouting campaign last year I always made a point to say that the only reason that I had the opportunities that I did -- was because somebody had made a commitment to Scouting before I got there. Please help to make that commitment. It's worth it for the Scouts, and the program.

Yours in Scouting,

Byron Clark

LOOKING FOR ALUMNI

The camp staff database has now been converted from the 1960's technology Apple IIe computer database to Access 2000. We can now pull sorts based upon year, staff position, camp, or any information field we want. We are trying to develop a system for checking and updating information. Several of the addresses are out of date and I am sure that we do not have all the staff positions for each person.

So put on your thinking caps and send me any copies of staff lists, copies of staff pictures with names written under the people (don't forget the staff position), or whatever information you have on camp staff members. If you would like to have me check your information, send me an Email, write me a letter, or give me a call.

Chris Soper
15406 W 88th Terr
Lenexa, KS, 66219
levelboy@hotmail.com
913-221-7252

THE BRICK CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY!

Don't forget to reserve your permanent impression on Wilderness. Look for the flyer or call the Fargo Office. Don't miss out on this one.

LOOKING FOR A WEB PAGE DESIGNER:

The Association is currently seeking someone who would be willing to volunteer to assist us in setting up a web page. The goal is to provide an outlet for association members to find out about association updates.

Another option we are considering is a feature to allow current members to update their information with us in case they move or change e-mail addresses. Eventually, we would also like to send out the Aurora via e-mail - this would drastically help us to increase the speed in which information reaches our members and would cut down some of our expenses for printing and mailing the newsletters. If anyone knows anyone who could be of assistance in this matter, please let me know and I would be happy to visit with them on this. My e-mail is bclark@state.nd.us

CAMP WILDERNESS

Here we are, running out of cold and snow (or lack of) headed toward the mosquito season. Many Units have already made their plans for the coming summer camping season, and we, as alumni, ought to be doing the same.

Our Wilderness Rendezvous Romp was another fun filled weekend at camp. Windy weather combined with mid-winter sleet on the roads created a challenge for those coming on Friday evening, but we still mustered 261 scouts for the Wilderness Rendezvous Romp program. The only disappointment for the weekend was the lack of the Night Vision Goggle program and the night hike. The National Guard folks who love to come to camp and share their equipment and knowledge were a tad busy this year, but look for them next year.

The next venues for us will be the spring camp inspection and work weekend. One area of attention will be a specific tree-planting program to enhance the beauty and functional layout of all the campsites. Yes, we could use some 'enthusiastic foremen' for the tree planting – so sign up early. If you have not been to camp in the past few months, you may be really surprised at some of the changes – and this year's work weekend will keep the updating of the facilities on track.

The second weekend in October – circle the date – be sure to plan on Fellowship weekend. The alumni should be thinking of a good annual project to present to the Council along with our annual task of 'filling the woodshed'. Then comes the priority of Camp Master Training for those who volunteer to enjoy a winter camping weekend. This year we also had a volunteer running the winter trading post. The reports that filter back through the 'grape vine' indicate that the volunteers helping out Ranger Andy may have had more fun than the kids on the sliding hill. But you'll have to sign up to prove that for yourself.

Spring Camp Inspection – Contact the Fargo Office

Work Weekend – Contact the Grand Forks Office

SECOND ANNUAL ALUMNI SPRING GATHERING

Mark your calendars! This year's Alumni Spring Gathering will be held May 30-June 1 at Camp Wilderness. The purpose of the Alumni Spring Gathering is threefold. First, the alumni have the opportunity to help prepare Camp Wilderness for the summer camping season. Ranger Andy and Camp Director Brad Olson have a list of projects that we can work on. The second purpose is to get to know the current staff members and to share stories, tips and ideas with them. Camp Staff alumni have many years of experience that can be passed on to the incoming staff members. Finally, and most importantly, we are all there to have fun. There will be plenty of time for sitting around a campfire and talking about the good old days! Last year's gathering was a huge success with alumni coming from all corners of the Midwest to attend. This year we are hoping for an even bigger turnout. We'll be mailing out more information and a registration sheet later this spring. Have a great spring and I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Wilderness,

Matt Saari
Spring Gathering Committee Chair

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF AN ALUMNUS AT CAMP WILDERNESS 2002

We (David Solien) literally ran into Ranger Andy on our way into camp. As I was driving down the camp road, we spotted Andy coming out of camp. So we stopped to talk to him. I turned my car off and got out to chat. As we walked up to the Ranger the car started to roll and into the back of Andy truck it went and the truck started to roll down the hill as well. So if you had been on the camp road on July 2nd you would have seen Andy, David and Neil chasing vehicles down the hill. The first staff that we see is Program Director, Ryan Murphy along with Hippie (only Shelia knows his real name) and Nutty. Then we checked in with the Camp Director (Brad Olson) and from there off to Cabin B to set up. The QM was our next stop for a wheel barrel and rake to do the annual cleaning around the Black Building. But without Chris Soper and Mike Fisher to help couldn't do it. Opening Camp Fire just wasn't the same without Chad Swenson there (when will he move closer to camp?). There was an opportunity for the alumni to check out the current staff's ability to sing some karaoke at our sick friend George's house.

I must have spent too much time at the QM on Sunday, because on Monday the Justin Fisher put us to work fixing cots. The canoe outpost needed a driver so off to Shell City and a dip in the river. Back to camp and an ugly meeting with the wasps down in Metage, but the old staff won and the wasps are now gone. More cots then off to the Dorset House it was calling with a Broasted Chicken Special. Back at camp came a call and the answering machine took it. The call was from an old staff from the 70's and 80.s, John Wright was in the area and wanted to come and visit camp again.

Tuesday was fix the picnic table and fishing sign day and then came the rain. I did get a wonderful opportunity to visit with John Wright at camp. He has since joined our group. Tuesday also brought a chance to return to the Brau Hous in Nevis for a Schwein Hac (German for Pig Foot) with the Remboldt's (Shelia, the princess and Nutty) and the former Camp Ranger, former Nature Director, new lead Commissioner Phil (He's the best in the West). New Ranger Andy says he'll join us next year.

On Wednesday we did a run to Aggregate Industries for some crushed concrete. The concrete was needed for the new handicap latrine at the water front. A stop at the "Toy Box" for the annual move things around, throw some things out and put in some new screens. Then, the annual outing with the Murphy's (Mike and his lovely wife Lynn) for Mexican food in Dorset (Glennie with Beans).

Thursday brought us back to the "Toy Box" in the morning, then a need for Mike Fischer to pick up some parts for Fischer Electric. The parts were in DL and it just happened to be the 4th of July, thus a brief stop at the beach. We did play "North to Alaska" for Alex Stig at George's.

Friday we finally get a chance for the Black Building cleanup with Chris Soper. Then was time to get ready for the Open House. It was nice to see Jim and Dodi (Chad presented her with a fedora to wear for the day) Olson return again for the TENTH Open House. I got to sign for the UPS delivery, then as normal the GFG truck comes in as supper is about to be served, so unloading we went. Closing Campfire and then a meeting to elect officers for Camp Wilderness Alumni Association.

Saturday morning and checking out of the scouts and then the largest group ever of Camp Staff and Alumni to attend breakfast at the Logging Camp, a table for 42. Serves was not great so maybe somewhere else next year. After a hearty round of "Johnny Appleseed", of course a round of applause from the locals, and plenty of eggs, pancakes, and ham. Then a round of golf at the par 3.

THANK YOU FROM CAMP WILDERNESS!

It is that time of year again when I sit down and review the progress of the projects here at the camp so I can start making plans for the next year. I am amazed with the progress that the camp has made through the year because of the hard work and dedication of the volunteers. I just wanted to take a moment and list some of the projects that were done here at camp this year.

The kitchen portion of the dining hall was completely renovated, providing a cooking and serving area that is state-of-the-art for use by the camp for many years to come.

A new Ercoa pontoon boat with a 35 horsepower motor was custom built and donated for use in the fishing area.

Family Cabin 3, Cabin 6, and Cabin 11 were completely remodeled. Family Cabin 4 was also prepped for a remodel that is currently underway.

A new bell tower was erected near the dining hall to replace the old tower, which was removed for the new water line to that building.

A campsite shelter was constructed at the new Erie campsite, which is expected to be ready for use for summer camp 2003.

A new general-purpose activity field was roughed in and topped with black topsoil near the secondary parking area. This new field measures roughly 40 yards by 70 yards, and is scheduled to be ready for use in the summer of 2004.

The flag field was leveled and re-seeded after the installation of the new main water line to the dining hall was completed.

A new roadway was constructed on the red trail near Boardman Lake to allow vehicles to pass the lake more safely.

A new handicap-accessible trail was constructed from the Lavold Nature Center down to the Pa-Hin Bogwalk.

Trees and stumps were removed in an area near the dining hall to make way for the new log pavilion and the brick campaign.

Several new events were constructed in the Low Cope Area, as well as a new inverted climbing wall at the Climbing Tower.

A new furnace was purchased and installed in the maintenance shop. This was critical because several items that the camp uses that cannot freeze are stored here. The old furnace was at least 35 years old and unreliable.

A new taxidermy shelf was installed in the Lavold Nature Center. This shelf will be used to hold many educational displays and mounts for the nature program.

New lighting was installed in the "Toy Box" storage shed at the maintenance area.

New benches were milled from trees cut off of the camp and installed in several of the campsites and program areas.

Six new picnic tables were constructed for use near the central commons area by the dining hall.

New storage boxes were constructed and installed to house fire hoses and fire fighting equipment near the camp fire hydrant system. These storage boxes allow the necessary equipment to be accessible in a very short time in case of fire.

New cubbyhole storage areas were built and installed at the waterfront to allow a dry, clean area for scouts to store their personal gear while enjoying the waterfront area.

PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND!
NORTHERN LIGHTS CAMPS' ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The purpose of the Association is: 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. The Aurora is the official publication of the Northern Lights Camps Alumni Association, 301 South 7th Street, Fargo, ND 58103. It is published three times per year.

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 June 1. Send any comments, article ideas or questions to Ron Schneider, 1608 South 17th Street, Moorhead, MN 56560 or e-mail them to Schneids@att.net. Please complete the information requested below and mail to:

Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association
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 ___
Make checks payable to the Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association

**NOMINATION FOR ALUMNI
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

NOTE: The nomination is confidential. To avoid possible disappointment, please do not advise nominee in any way of your action in his or her behalf.

TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS COUNCIL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ALUMNI
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COMMITTEE:

It is a pleasure to present for your consideration for the ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City or Town: _____ Zip: _____

The noteworthy service upon which this nomination is based follows:

(Furnish as much information as possible. For example years on paid staff, years of
volunteer staff, staff positions, volunteer positions, special contributions to camp
including program development and resources. Use additional pages as needed.)

Date of Nomination
GENERAL INFORMATION

Name and phone number of person making nomination

The exterior of the Ranger's Residence was trimmed out and stained.

A new deck was built on the Ranger's Residence.

A new permanent deck was attached to the front of the Lavold Nature Center.

A new deck and handicap-accessible ramp were installed at the waterfront latrine.

New storage cages were built in the "Toy Box" storage shed in the maintenance area to house winter camp gear, O equipment, and Woodbadge equipment.

The main road into camp was re-graded, as well as the road going out to the Family Cabins and the fishing area.

A new road was roughed in to the waterfront to replace the rough, steep road currently in use. Hopefully, this road will be ready to use by summer camp 2003.

All of the permanent campsite shelters received a layer of gravel to keep down dust and mud.

New bedrooms were built into the Fox cabin for use during winter camp. These rooms will allow leaders more privacy.

New metal roofing was installed on cabins 2, 6, 7, and 10.

Over 2000 tree seedlings were planted in various locations throughout the camp.

A fence was built to conceal the dumpsters by the dining hall.

A new canoe rack was built at the waterfront.

The waterfront got the addition of "Tubby", the aqua jump trampoline.

Cabins 1, 2, 5,6,7,8, and Family Cabins 2 and 3, the dining hall, and the recycling shed were re-stained.

More work was completed on the Art Christopherson Rifle Range.

I'm sure you will agree that this is a huge list of accomplishments for the camp in just one year. The most amazing thing is that all of these jobs were completed thanks to donations of time, labor, money or equipment by you—the volunteer. It has been my privilege to work with you all to make a difference in the lives of youth and the future of this camp. I'm looking forward to continuing that relationship in 2003. It looks like a lot more exciting projects are on the horizon!

Sincerely,
Andy Kietzman, Camp Wilderness Ranger

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ron Schneider of Moorhead, MN in a ceremony at the Camp Wilderness Fall Fellowship was presented the Alumni Achievement Award. The Fall Fellowship was held last October out at Camp Wilderness. Ron Schneider became the 7th recipient of this award presented by the Camp Wilderness Alumni Association on a yearly basis. Other recipients of the Award include: Bev Sедgerholm, Ron Jackson, Ernie Harlow, Phil Schorn, Mike Melby, and Al Czczok.

Ron Schneider was honored for all the Time, Talent and his Tréasure he has given to the promotion of Camp Wilderness in his former position of Council Camping Chair. Ron is a frequent worker out at Camp during Camp Visitations, Work Parties, Fellowships and Camping events. Congratulations, Ron!

Do you know someone like Ron Schneider who gives of his time, talent and treasure to the promotion of the outdoor Camping program in the council? If you do, than do that person a favor and submit an application for that person to receive this award. A blank application is usually featured in every issue of the Alumni Association's publication, the AURORA. Easy to fill out and what satisfaction you will have doing this for someone deserving.

Send all applications to the Chair of the selections committee:

Phil Schorn
27561 Witter Ave
Park Rapids, MN. 56470

NAME THAT ROAD (?)

As many of you have noticed, I have been gradually upgrading the signage throughout Camp Wilderness. The goals to this project have involved making the signs more maintenance free, as well as increasing the signs so that new visitors to the camp will be able to find their way around more easily. Part of this has involved naming roads as I make signs for them, which makes it easier for all of us to use these signs to give directions. For example, to direct someone to get to the Lavold Nature Center, you might tell them to go to Bog Road and take the first right at the sign for the Lavold Nature Center, etc.

So far the roads I have finished new signs for are the road to the Nature Center and surrounding sights (Bog Road), the road to the fishing area and family camp (Bad Axe Road), and Wilderness Road, which was already named. These were all pretty simple—I just picked a geographical item along the road and named the road that way. However, I am now ready to start on the roads in main camp, and these are more difficult to name. Specifically, I am looking to name the road that goes from the Dining Hall to

Mandan, and the road that goes from the Parking Lot to Apache. These named roads would also have signage underneath the road name indicating what can be found on the road, just like the completed signs do now.

This is where I am hoping that you, the Alumni, can help me out. I have come up with several options based upon council history, Wilderness history, and the history of other camps from the past. I have a few other options, too. Here are some options that I came up with; Shawondasse, Wabaunaquat, and Metigoshe after old camps. Thunderbird, Minniduta, Chatoka, and Chan-O-Wapi after the old OA lodges, and Eagle, Porcupine, and Osprey. My intention with the old camp and OA references was one of reverence, with the hope of maintaining good memories. However, I recognize that these might have the opposite effect and open up some old wounds. I would love to get some feedback on this, or hear any other ideas for road names besides these. I hope to get a start on these new signs sometime this spring if other projects go well. As always, you can call me at camp at (218)-732-4674, or email me at forestry76@hotmail.com. Thanks for your time and thoughtfulness!

Ranger Andy

The Alumni Achievement Award is an award presented by the Northern Lights Council Camps Alumni Association.

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.

The award is made available annually on the basis of 1 award per year. However, the committee can choose to present the award to two or more individuals or a group.

It is not appropriate to nominate an individual who is already received this award.

This award is open to any individual regardless of scouting registration. A nominee is not limited to camp staff alumni.

REQUIREMENTS

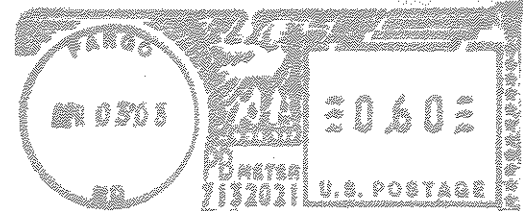
A nominee must have rendered noteworthy service to all the Northern Lights Council camping properties.

The nominee's attitude toward all camp properties owned by the Northern Lights Council, past and present, shall be taken into consideration.

Consideration must be given to the nominee's service position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that position.

Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

NORTHERN LIGHTS COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
301 S. 7th St.
FARGO, ND 58103-1884



Chris Soper
15406 W 88 Terr.
Lenexa, KS 66219