

AURORA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CAMPS' ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WINTER, 2000

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4

BRAD OLSON NEW CAMPING EXECUTIVE



Over the course of the last 10 years, I have had the privilege to call Camp Wilderness my home during the summer months. On November 15th, 2000, I was hired on as the Camp Executive for the Northern Lights Council. Some of my duties include working with Cub Scout Day Camp, Heart Butte Camp, Big 4 Camp, Triangle Y Camp, and Camp Wilderness. I will still be able to call Camp Wilderness my home during the summer months and work to promote the camps across the council during the rest of the year. It is hard to believe that back in first grade when I started with Tiger Cubs that I would have ended up where I am at today. Without the dedication of the leaders and scouts that have helped with the program over the years, I would probably be still living in the Twin Cities right now. The group that has made the biggest impact on my life would be the Camp Wilderness Staff. For those of you who have not worked on staff, we are like a big extended family that stretches all across the country.

I am looking forward to the challenges that I face with making the camping program the best that it can be and to promote Scouting in everything that I do. If you have time, stop by camp this summer and say hi. It is always fun to visit with people who care about camp. Thank you for everything that you do for the Scouting Program and I look forward to seeing you down the trail.

Yours in Scouting,
Brad Olson

MEET RANGER ANDY and DANNON



My name is Andy Kietzman, and as of the 1st of November I have officially taken on the responsibility of Ranger at Camp Wilderness. I grew up on a family farm in central Illinois, about 2 hours south of Chicago. I became active with the BSA way back in second grade when I joined Cub Scouts and have been with it ever since. I was also very active in the FFA in high school and played football. To be honest, I had always sort of expected to be a farmer, but the 80's were hard on farming and late in high school my family sold all we had except for 200 acres and the house, and I had to change gears quickly to adjust for my future.

I had been working with friends at scout camps since I was old enough to be a CIT, first at Camp Wokanda for cub scout resident camp and then Ingersoll Scout Reservation for BSA summer camp. (as a point of interest, Ingersoll got it's name in the 70's after a sizable donation from Mr. Ingersoll. For several years before the name was changed, Ingersoll was actually called Camp Wilderness!) As I said, I was a CIT, and then Aquatics Staff for 2 years, Archery Director, and then the Assistant Ranger for 5 years. I was also active in the Order of the Arrow with Wenasa Quenhotan Lodge 23 on several ceremonies teams and was a district vice-chief for 1 year. Probably one of my proudest accomplishments was in 1991 when I was earned Eagle Scout. Somewhere in there, I decided that I wanted to
(continued on page three)

AURORA DEADLINES

June 1 - Articles Due
June 15 - Aurora Mailed

If possible, e-mail your articles to Ron, otherwise send us a hard copy.

Schneids@att.net
or
Ron Schneider
1608 South 17th Street
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 236-5072 Home

Mark your calendar!

May 4-6, 2001
Camp Wilderness
Spring Cleaning

July 1-7, 2001
Staff Reunion Week

October 12-14, 2001
Fall Fellowship

Capital Campaign Update

The capital campaign for new Cub Camp at Camp Wilderness is underway! If you would like some information about the campaign, please contact Mark Holtz, Council Scout Executive, 301 South 7th Street, Fargo, ND 58103 or call him toll free at (877) 293-5011.

Campmasters

Some have asked about helping out with winter camp this year by being a campmaster for a weekend. If you are interested in helping out for a weekend, contact Bev at the Fargo Scout office. 293-5011 or bsegerholm@nlcbsa.org.

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, March, June and November. 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. Association dues are \$ 15.00 per year for annual membership, \$ 25.00 or more 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 call 218 236-5072.

Camp Chandawaga on Oak Island

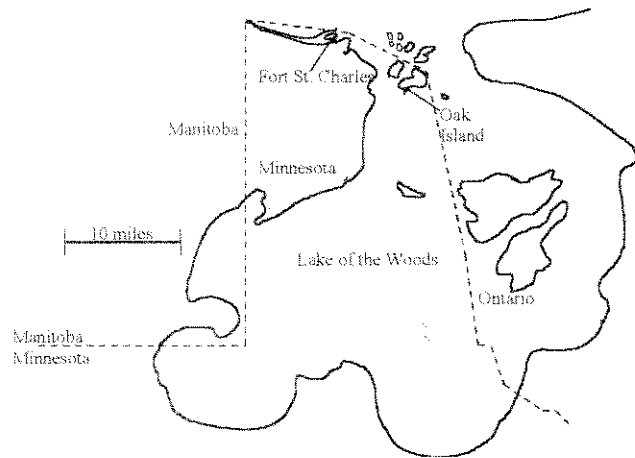
by
Chuck Rose

Look at a map of Minnesota, way north to the chimney shaped Northwest Angle. Straddling the Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba borders, Lake of the Woods contains more islands (14,000) and shoreline (65,000 miles) than any lake in the world. Within its borders, there is more land than water surface area. Lake of the Woods is much like two lakes; the southern, mainly U.S. side called Big Traverse Bay is a large, relatively shallow (20 feet) open area with few islands. The southern shore is generally flat and marshy. Those waters are justly famous as a "walleye factory." The northern

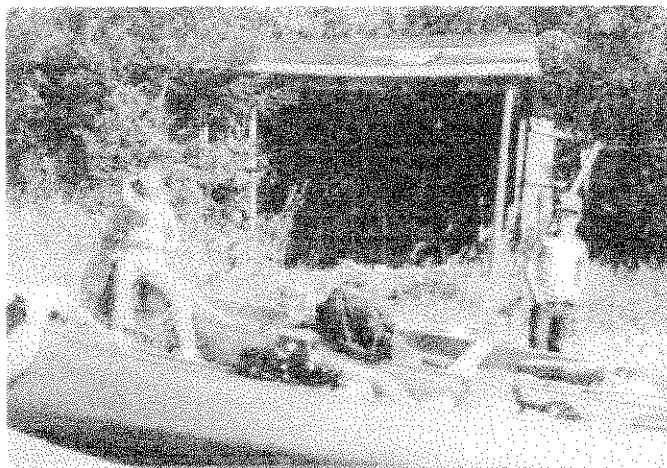
part of the lake--with places over 200 feet deep--is on the edge of the Canadian Shield geologic formation. It supports a great variety of fish including bass, lake trout, northern, walleye, and muskie. The world's oldest fish, a lake sturgeon, was taken from its depths in the 1950s. At over 200 years old, that fish was older than many of the French-Canadian fur trade voyagers when they paddled across the lake. Of all the waterways between Montreal and Lake Athabaska, Lake of the Woods was where the voyagers most frequently got lost.

When the Treaty of Paris between the British and the new United States was signed after the Revolutionary War, the northern border was set as ". . . to the Lake of the Woods, thence through the said lake to the northwestern part thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the Mississippi." Bad map; the Mississippi is over 100 miles south, not west. Later the mistake was found and negotiations were reopened. The British proposed that the border run from Lake Superior to the Mississippi. In 1842, bargainers finally compromised, found the northwestern most point on the lake, dropped the border line to the 49th parallel and after haggling over an island or two, signed the Webster-Ashburton treaty.

Lake of the Woods was a crossroads for Sioux, Ojibway, and Cree, with battles frequently fought to control its resources (most importantly, wild rice). European explorers, looking for furs and the Northwest Passage first came to the Lake in 1688. Pierre La Verendrye established the first trading post near the northwest corner called Fort St. Charles in 1732 intending on using it as a base for further exploration. While at Lake of the Woods, the Cree chief Ochaga sketched La Verendrye a map of the lands to the west including Lake Winnipeg. La Verendrye mistook Lake Winnipeg on the map for the Pacific Ocean and was anxious to discover the Northwest Passage. His plans were interrupted when much of his party (including his son and the Jesuit missionary Father Aulneau) were beheaded by a Sioux war party on Massacre Island near the present U.S./Canadian border. The bodies were transported back to Fort St. Charles and properly buried. Nearly 200 years later, those skeletons were used to confirm the location of the fort which has subsequently been restored and maintained by the Knights of Columbus as a tribute to Father Aulneau, first Christian martyr in western Canada. Eventually the route that La Verendrye pioneered became the major fur trade route west of Lake Superior.



Lumbering and mining were the next draw for white settlers. Near the turn of this century, gold was discovered; but the Lake of the Woods Gold Rush was overshadowed by the great Yukon Gold Rush. Commercial fishing--long an important part of the economy--has been phased out over the last few decades to preserve recreational fisheries. Though resort fishing is the real gold of the area's economy, the maze of islands in the northern part of Lake of the Woods is a marvelous canoe country. Voyaguer routes, wildlife, pictographs, logging and mining history are all there.



The BSA's Camp Chandawaga on Oak Island came into existence when the Lake Agassiz Council purchased 220 acres (for \$1.00) on southern shore of Oak Island in Lake of the Woods in 1944. The original homesteader, Phil Smith, acted as guide for a short time. He had made his living there as a boat builder, fishing guide, school teacher, and justice of the peace. Oak Island has one of the best sand beach on the lake. The facilities consisted of three simple structures, a boathouse, a summer building on a nearby ridge (nicknamed Nightmare Inn by my troop),

and Mr. Smith's winter residence about 200 yards into the woods. Just beyond the beach is a grassy area, surrounded by forest, a nice campsite. There is a trail (maintained by island residents) from the beach, leading directly to a resort grocery store on the northwest side of the island. Mr. Smith left after a few years and the Camp fell into disuse.

It was not until 1960 that the Council tried to develop a program on the property. The Council hoped that Oak Island would help create interest in the new Exploring program. Scouts came from as far away as Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Green Bay, Wisconsin. However, within a few years, the experiment was abandoned and the equipment was passed on to the council's summer camp. Little used, the property became more of a liability than asset; the Northern Lights Council actually discouraged troops from going there. Throughout the 1980s, the Oak Island property was on the market. No takers. They even offered it to the National BSA. In 1994, it was finally sold to the adjacent Laketrails camp a non-profit corporation that does run a successful canoe camping program for teenagers on Oak Island, despite the remote location. Laketrails program is relatively expensive, though. Occasionally, Laketrails has even outfitted Scout troops. As a result, Camp Chandawaga is now a distant part of Northern Lights Council history.

So where is ole what's his/her name now?

Joel Hektner has recently moved to the the Fargo area to start a position at NDSU in the Department of Child Development and Family Science.

Joel_Hektner@ndsu.nodak.edu

Charles Rose is teaching Environmental Science at St. Cloud State and is a member of the Sommers Alumni Association.

crose@stcloudstate.edu

Neil Litton is the director for the Boys State Program across the state of ND. His son is now a Bobcat in the Cub Scout program.

Meet Ranger Andy and Dannon, continued from page one.

make my time at camp more permanent, and started to look at options that could make that happen. After growing up on the farm and then being the assistant ranger for 5 summers, I knew that the ranger job combined the 2 things I wanted most from a job at that time. These were the opportunity to work outside with my hands, and a steady paycheck. I spoke with my local council executive and decided that college would be a good investment in my future both as an incentive to get hired as a ranger and something to fall back on if wanted to change careers at some point. With that in mind, I went to Parkland Junior College and received an Associate Degree in Agriculture, and then transferred to Southern Illinois University and received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry specializing in Outdoor Recreation Resources Management and a minor in Environmental Studies. All through the last 2 years of college I was working with my local council exec. preparing a resume. When it was ready, he sent it to the regional Program Director, and from there it went to every council in the region. Shortly afterward I heard from John Feick about Ranger Phil's future retirement and the available position here at Wilderness. The timing was perfect for me because I graduated in May 2000, and that was when the new ranger was supposed to start so that there would be time to work with Phil and learn the ropes before his retirement in October. My wife, Dannon, and I came up in March to see the camp, and then again in May for a formal interview, and here we are now. So far, the job has been challenging and very rewarding. Northern Lights Council has an outstanding volunteer support base and an amazing professional staff as well. With those two things on a property like Wilderness, the sky is the limit for the future here. I am excited to be here, and I look forward to the times to come when I will have the chance to learn from this council, as well as make it a little better place with the knowledge I have obtained from my previous experiences. When you are in camp, be sure to stop and visit. I sometimes forget a name, but rarely a face, and I want to hear your thoughts about anything. I have some great ideas for the place, and I'm sure you do too. After all, I'm the new kid on the block, and this has been your camp for a long time.

Yours in Scouting,
Ranger Andy

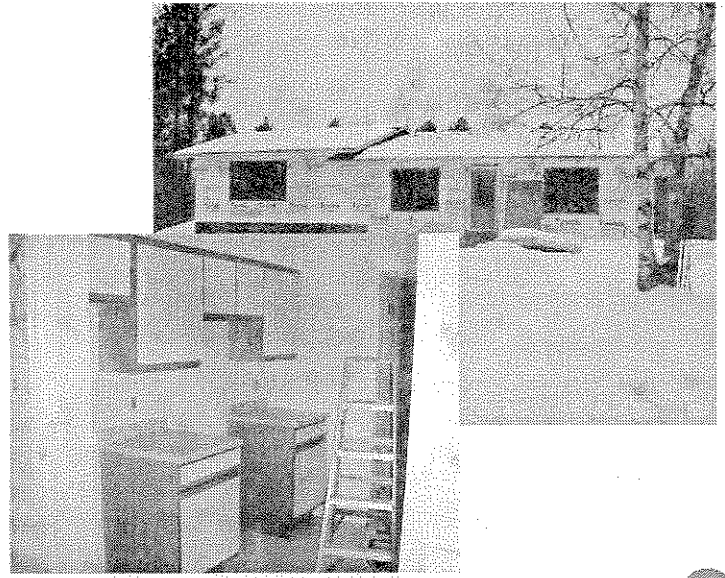
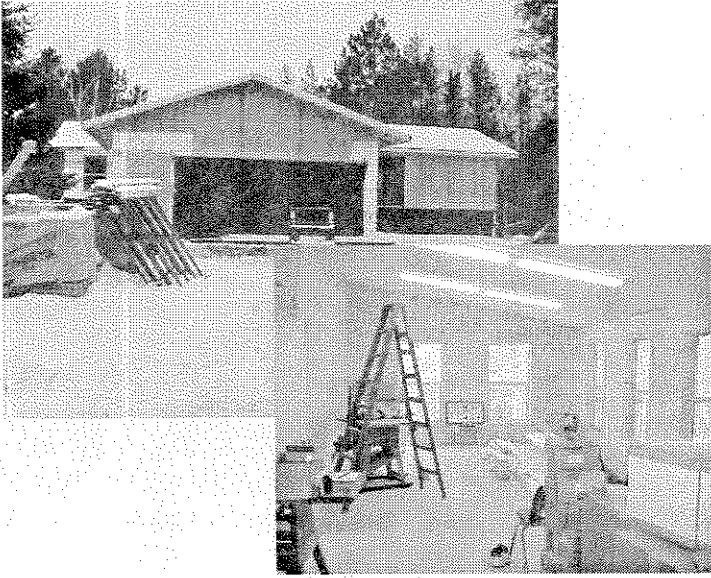
Hello.

My name is Dannon Kietzman, Ranger Andy's better half. I also grew up in central Illinois in a very small town. I come from a semi large family including 2 brothers and 1 sister. Let's see..I have been active in scouting for about 4 or 5 years now. I started in a local Explorer Post back home and spent some time working at Ingersoll Scout Reservation. I spent a summer in the kitchen, one as an aquatics assistant, and one as the aquatics director (I got the pleasure of attending National Camp School for aquatics in May of 1999). I then worked at Camp Wilderness last summer as one of the assistant aquatics directors. I also attended a community college during those years and received an Associate Degree majoring in Elementary Education. I plan on continuing my education in the fall, probably at Bemidji State. However, until that time when in-state tuition becomes available to me, I'm currently working at a small retail store in Park Rapids. Also our puppy keeps me quite busy! His name is Moose and he's 1/2 lab- 1/2 golden retriever, and is very rowdy! I really enjoy northern Minnesota and I'm looking forward to the future here at Camp Wilderness.

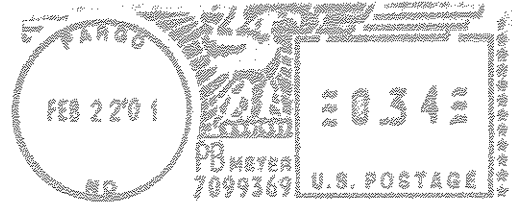
See you at camp!
Dannon

THANK YOU!

A great big thank you to all that have helped out with the various projects that are going on up at Camp Wilderness. The Lavold Nature Center has been completed and Scouts have been using the Center for winter camp since January 5th. (The reports are that they "love it!") The ranger's house addition and remodeling process are coming along and they are making steady progress. It is going to be nice! The rifle range needs some major TLC this spring to be ready for summer camp, but it will be ready.



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