

Wind Word



Biannual newsletter for Wilderness Wind Inc.

Spring/Summer 2008

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*Come, come, whoever you are...
wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving –
what does it matter?
Ours is not a caravan of despair.
Come even if you have broken your vow
a hundred times –
Come, come again, come. - (Rumi)*

Mother with Toddler in War Time

by Julia Spicher Kasdorf

The first soft day after
an intractable winter

a child, conceived before
the Towers burned but born

after, commands a flock
of geese: *Do this! Do this!*

as her arms flap like wings
under their scraping songs.

The only one more vain
is the mother who knows,

more than thinks, that nothing
on our worn earth matters more

than this one gesture, this
kid this instant, this lifting.

Previously published in
Women's Review of Books

I stumbled across these words by Rumi and not long after collided with Christ's "seventy times seven" of Matthew 18:22. Admittedly, I would not win an extender of grace award, to others or to myself.

I, a lover of leaving, have indeed broken my vow a hundred times. It is very easy to be lulled into the "leaving": being more committed to my plan than the one God puts before me, backing away from a risk because I question God's assistance in it even though I know it would help other's lives, or amusing myself with the notion that the positive energy at Wilderness Wind has to do with my skills rather than seeing it as God drawing people into a deeper relationship. Each one is a "leaving" that with each step subtly shifts who is leading the dance. Strange how it becomes less of a dance when the leader changes. Even though I have broken my vow a hundred times, God calls me (and you) to "Come, come again, come", and then you discover that, like the prodigal son, there is a feast being prepared for you, the wanderer, the leaver.

Some of you will come to Wilderness Wind this summer to participate in a writer's retreat, to souljourn into the wilderness or to strengthen familiar relationships, while others will travel here in their imagination. Who knows what awaits each of us? Those plans are not ours to know. God simply calls each of us, "Come, come, whoever you are..." The lavish feast is already laid out before you in full regalia; fresh, ripe, succulent. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who trusts in God.
- Kathy Landis, Executive Director, Newton Kansas

A Tribute to Michael Schrock

Memories from my Youth

As my youth sponsor when I was in early high school, Michael Schrock took me on one of my first adventures to Wilderness Wind. We did not take part in a canoe trip but spent time at Pine Ridge and explored the area through day long hikes. I have fond memories of that trip. During those hikes, I first became aware of how tall trees are. We were hiking somewhere near Ely and wandering among tall pines. Occasionally we would stop and look up through the tree tops and into the blue sky. While gazing upwards, I noticed how tall and majestic trees could be. Since then as I hike, I always stop at some point and turn my gaze upward, grateful for the beauty and strength of trees.

While on that trip to Wilderness Wind as youth, we didn't only enjoy the outdoors; we played silly games, stacked up old mattresses and jumped on them, ate good food and enjoyed Wilderness Wind and the community of friends with whom we had traveled. Each time I return to Wilderness Wind I think of that trip and all the fun we had.

I am not the only youth from Faith Mennonite Church Mike Schrock has led to the Boundary Waters Area and Wilderness Wind Camp. I know other youth Mike has taken to Wilderness Wind from Faith Mennonite who have had similar experiences. Upon their return from the woods, the kids talk about their favorite aspect of the trip, a funny thing that happened while out on the water, or the most beautiful camping spot. Mike has helped create many lasting memories connecting youth to God and to the earth. For this, we are very grateful.

- Rachel Geissinger Hoskins, Minneapolis, Minnesota

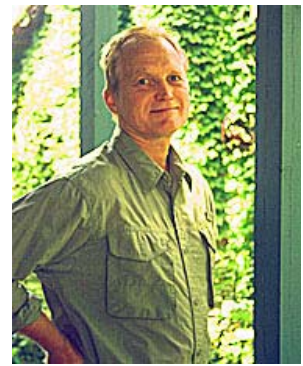
For my Friend

Adrift in the middle of Knife Lake, one of the group leaders announced to the group that they wanted their ashes spread over the waters if they should die. It was a serene episode, one brought on by the natural beauty that surrounded all of us at that moment in time. All of us felt extremely small as we soaked in our environment and gained perspective on our lives while sitting in our respective canoes.

When I first heard about Mike's accident, I immediately thought about that moment some 5 years ago and felt as though it was Mike who spoke those words. There's a good chance it was, although it's difficult to remember for sure. Regardless, Mike belonged in the North Woods. I have led dozens and dozens of canoe trips, and have met many extraordinary people on these trips. Some people leave stronger impressions than others. But there is not one individual who represents what the Boundary Waters mean to me more than Mike Schrock.

If anyone was blessed with a combination of personal intelligence, charisma, humor, motivation, determination, and good looks it was Mike. He had every reason to have a big ego with his successes in life, but instead, he genuinely cared about other people. This made him that much more of a powerful individual to be near. He was a classy guy in every sense of the word. As old memories of Mike, without warning or cause, appear to me, one thing is certainHe will be truly missed.

- Brandon Miller, Gosben, Indiana



Michael is survived by his wife, Erin Geiser, sons, Atlee and Haven, mother Twila of Fargo, sisters Deirdre (Tom) Albrecht, Joan (Don) Schrock Woodward, Elizabeth (Marvin) Slabaugh.



by Kirsten Munson

May Mike's spirit soar with the birds of the air as he makes his home with the Divine One.

- Mary Ruth Kamp

Strategic Visioning Retreat

On March 14 and 15, Wilderness Wind took part in a strategic visioning retreat. Led by staff from Advancement Associates, board members, staff and Wilderness Wind supporters, totaling thirty, gathered in Goshen, Indiana. Prior to the meeting, each participant was asked to respond to eight questions focusing on Wilderness Wind present and future. After a tasty dinner, Rich Gerig of Advancement Associates gave an introduction, followed by Kathy Landis's brief history of the camp. Participants then scattered to their lodgings with an assignment of reading for the next day.

Saturday, bright and early, discussion groups brainstormed. Lunch gave us all a welcome break followed by an afternoon of more discussion and brainstorming. Energy was high, discussions were full of images and hopes; everyone felt encouraged to see how congruent the brainstorms were with the mission and current programming Wilderness Wind offers.

The retreat was a beginning. This past week, I asked board members who participated in the retreat a few questions. Questions and answers follow. Their responses reflect the work that still exists and the amount of encouragement and energy that was present. Hopefully, this encouragement and energy will carry the future work of the staff and board members.

Q: Why did Wilderness Wind take part in a strategic visioning retreat?

A: *"We wanted to gather a broader group of people together to identify and prioritize our common goals for Wilderness Wind, and to move Wilderness Wind forward. We also gathered to look at the future of Wilderness Wind and try and to plot some directions for the organization."* - Board Member

"Wilderness Wind is bigger than its staff and board. Hundreds of people have been blessed by its existence and have a passion for its vision. It is important as Wilderness Wind grows and develops that the collected wisdom of these people is heard, not just the voices of the current staff and board members." - Board Member

Q: What are some of the visible benefits of the strategic visioning retreat at this point?

A: *"The retreat offered us a framework around which to build a strategic plan and has affirmed the direction that Wilderness Wind is moving."* - Board Member

Q: What are some images that you carried away from the strategic visioning retreat?

A: *"Images of energy, commitment and respect."* - Board Member

"The participants at the visioning retreat convinced me that Wilderness Wind is doing a good and important work. The people present not only believe in what Wilderness Wind is doing but are willing to support Wilderness Wind in tangible ways."
- Board Member

Q: What is the next step?

A: *"The next step is for the board and the executive director to sit and discuss the events of the weekend as well as the notes and create a strategic plan."* - Board Member

**Wilderness Wind nurtures relationship with God
and creation through wilderness living which
promotes spirituality, cooperation, and
environmental sustainability.**

Listen for the Loons: a writing retreat.

Come to the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota and hear loons call and laugh on the lake. Come and listen for the words of your life and for the voice of God in the wilderness. Write and share your work in the company of fellow travelers.

Retreat Dates:

July 17th, 7:00pm - July 20th, Noon

Cost:

\$225 (includes food and lodging)

Scholarships and student discounts are available upon request.

Retreat Details:

This retreat includes morning stretching, meditations, writing sessions, unstructured writing times, and free time to explore the wilderness and the Ely community. Individual conversations with the resource people will also be an option. In addition, there may be guided canoeing / hiking trips. You will stay in cabins on Armstrong Lake and eat nutritious meals prepared by the Wilderness Wind staff.

Resource Persons:

Ann Hostetler is the author of a book of poetry, *Empty Room with Light*, and editor of *A Cappella: Mennonite Voices in Poetry*. She teaches literature and creative writing at Goshen College. Examples of her spiritual autobiography can be found at <http://bigpawchronicles.blogspot.com>.

Julia Spicher Kasdorf has published two books of poetry, *Sleeping Preacher* and *Eve's Striptease*, two works of nonfiction, and co-edited *Broken Land: Poems of Brooklyn*. She teaches and directs a graduate program in creative writing at The Pennsylvania State University.

To reserve a spot for the writing retreat or to gather more information, please call Kathy Landis at (218) 365-5873 or email wildernesswind@juno.com.



Vespers

by Ann Hostetler

I see my mother's heart
its chambers pumping rhythmically
once more. She watches, too,
as the sonographer sends short inaudible
waves through her skin. They return
an image of atria opening to welcome
oxygenated blood, cone-shaped echoes
of movement in black and white. The last heart I'd seen
pumping through sound waves belonged to a child
cradled in my uterine walls. I remember the cool
transducer sliding in slick gel across my taut
belly, systolic and diastolic alternations
beating like a beacon on the screen. Before me
now the floppy hands of mother's mitral valve
open and close in evening prayer.

Previously published in - Perspectives:
A Journal of Reformed Thought, May 2006

Lakeside Cabins

Cabins on Armstrong Lake are available throughout the summer. Whether you are interested in a quiet retreat, a few days of fishing, a place to celebrate family, or a gateway into the Boundary Waters, the Wilderness Wind cabins will meet your needs. The cabins can sleep 1-6 people. Each cabin has a fully equipped kitchen and a westward view of the lake. The bathhouse is a short walk from all cabins. Canoes, paddles, and life jackets are included with cabin rental. Guided day trips into the Boundary Waters are also available upon request. Armstrong Lake is approximately 4 miles from Pine Ridge (Wilderness Wind's basecamp) and 10 miles from Ely, Minnesota. For reservations or questions, please contact **(218) 365-5873** or email at **wildernesswind@juno.com**.

Canoe Trips ~ Open Trips

The summer schedule is filling up with trips of all kinds. However, there are remaining slots for canoe trips. If you have interest, we can schedule your group. For the weeks of June 22nd and June 29th, there is a 10% discount for any size group. To schedule a trip or for more information, please call **(218) 365-5873** or email **wildernesswind@juno.com**. For those of you who don't have an entire group but still want to take a canoe trip, there are spaces available in the following open trips:

~ Focal Living: Wilderness Reorientation ~

Going to the wilderness can be an escape from "real life" or a reorientation to abundant life. Christian faith has a long tradition of going to the wilderness to meet and listen to God. Our journey will help us understand what makes day-to-day life so harried. We will ponder how to live more centered and grounded lives, not just in the wilderness but day in and day out, all year long. Mornings begin with a presentation and evenings end with fireside conversation to reflect on the day's themes. Along the way, there is ample time for silence, journaling, prayer and conviviality.

- * Resource person: Arthur Paul Boers, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
- * Date: July 19 - July 26
- * Contact: Arthur Paul Boers, **(574)296-6265** or Mary Ruth Kamp **(218) 365-5873** for availability and more information.

~ Exploring the Wilderness as a Family ~

You want to take your family out on a canoe trip but you can't fill a trip yourselves and you would enjoy getting to know another family. This trip is for you if you have a family of 3 or 4 and want to journey into the wilderness with others. If you are a father/child or mother/child pair, this trip would work well for you, too. Activities and input will be geared towards children and youth.

- * Date: July 31 - August 6 (This is a five day trip with an additional day for orientation.)
- * Contact: Mary Ruth Kamp, **(218) 365- 5873** or **wildernesswind@juno.com** for more information or to join this trip.

~ Disabilities Canoe Trip and Lakeside Retreat ~

Wilderness Wind has been leading outdoor adventures for people with disabilities since 1993. Participants from 18-60 years of age with varying levels of disabilities (including the use of wheelchairs) have enjoyed the opportunity to venture into the natural setting of Northern Minnesota. **Boundary Waters Canoe Trip:** This experience is a combination of discovery and outdoor activities. Campers and Staff paddle into the Boundary Waters, set up a base camp and, from there, take day trips. **Lakeside Cabins:** This residential experience focuses on educational experiences and relaxation. Both have available space.

- * Date: June 29th - July 5th
- * Contact: Kathy Landis, **(218) 365-5873** or **wildernesswind@juno.com** for more information or to participate in either the canoe trip or lakeside retreat

Become richer

Lately we hear the word recession daily or multiple times a day depending on the circles in which we live and work. A natural response is to "hold the dollars tighter". God's kingdom calls out a different way. The feeding of the 5,000 is a classic example of individuals and the community becoming richer by giving. The story of Zaccheaus is another. Scriptures are abundant with stories of people becoming richer as they trusted in God and gave to their community.

Imagine your gift helping a family learn to laugh together again, changing the life of a youth, drawing someone to change a damaging habit, or guiding a wanderer to see the presence of God anew. Your gift makes a difference, both for these individuals, and the community in which they live. But it also makes a difference in you.

Our world has become big and complex enough that we don't often see the truth that each change connects to many other facets that also change. In the wilderness, it is easy to see those changes and to remember that it also happens on a larger scale. Your contribution, given to enrich people's experiences or given for capital improvements, will make you richer. Jump in, watch the ripple affect, and experience the far-reaching impact of your support. You are welcome to send your tax-deductible contribution in the enclosed envelope or visit the financial support page at www.wildernesswind.org. Thank you for participating in the mystery and miracle of giving.



2008 Paddle-a-Thon



Don't forget to mark your calenders for the 2008 Paddle-a-Thon. Scheduled for August 10th, we hope to broaden our paddling and donor bases for this event. If you have interest in paddling or would like to be involved in some way, please contact us at wildernesswind@juno.com. There has been some brainstorming about how to be involved in the Paddle-a-thon from home - if this idea peaks your interest, please contact us at wildernesswind@juno.com or (218) 365-5873

THANK YOU!

Fulfilled Wishes:

- Volunteers (of all skill levels)
- Kayak for lakeside
- Books for library
- Nylon hammocks for canoe groups
- Hand held planer
- Belt sander
- Wood bench vice
- A yurt for lakeside

2008 Wish List

- Volunteers (priceless)
- Jigsaw (\$150)
- Sawzaw (\$180)
- Small bench top drill press (\$100)
- 1 1/2 - 2 inch router bits (\$1.00-2.00)
- Books for staff (\$30-150)
- 2 - White Mountain 6 qt. icecream makers (\$200)
- A 12 gallon copper cast iron kettle (for lakeside)
- Additional books for the Wilderness Wind library (\$20-5,000)

Volunteers Needed:

We are setting up a new Yurt this summer (inside and out), continueing to update the Food Prep Building (August 10-16 is the week we hope to replace the roof), holding the Paddle-a-thon, and we are still in need of a cook. So if you would like to put you skills and energy to good use this summer and enjoy a beautiful setting while you are at it, please call Kathy Landis at (316) 217-1129 or email wildernesswind@juno.com. We hope to see you at Wilderness Wind this summer.

Wilderness Wind is a nonprofit corporation that has a 20-acre base camp and 3.5 acres of Lakeside property located close to Ely, Minnesota. Wilderness Wind is a member of Mennonite Camping Association and the Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

2008 Summer Staff



Jenny Hochstetler is a native to Iowa City and has just finished her second year at Eastern Mennonite University. She is a Justice, Peace and Conflict Studies major. She enjoys hiking, playing her flute and traveling. Jenny comes to WW after study abroad in the middle east.

While working for Wilderness Wind, Mary Ruth Kamp also thrust herself into the world of coffee this past year as a barista at a local coffee shop. She also helped her fiance Mark finish the pottery studio in his home in Kidron, Ohio. (Her dad worked many hours as well.) She enjoys using her hands, learning new things, and spending time with her many nieces and nephews.



Luke Keller grew up in Nepal and Harrisonburg, Virginia. He attended both Hesston College and Conrad Grebel University College. He will join us after a family sojourn back to Nepal in May. In the fall Luke will begin work as a sustainable building consultant in Kitchener, Ontario.

Kathy Landis enjoys exploring the woods, writing, gardening and cooking with her husband Miles. A highlight of this past year was hanging out in Ely during the winter festival.



Brother Bear (Dave Leonard) says that he spent the winter hibernating, but we know the truth. He spent his time watching foreign films, babysitting his many little friends, lifeguarding, and taking part in renovations of many kinds. Dave is returning for his second summer on staff.

Jon Spicher just finished his second year at Eastern Mennonite University. He enjoys being outdoors especially while on his bicycle. He plans on biking to the Mennonite World Conference in 2009 with Lars Akerson, a past WW staff. Jon's favorite foods are sushi and hummus.



Peter Wigginton is a recent graduate of Earlham College. He loves music, physics, film and outdoor education. Peter will be returning for his third summer at Wilderness Wind. He is excited about using his hand made paddles on trips and about making more. Someday he hopes to make his own canoe.

Still Looking for a Cook

If you enjoy food, cooking for groups, hospitality, and want to spend your summer in the beauty of Northeastern Minnesota, we'd love to have you join this summer's staff. Please call **330-763-3265** with inquiries and for an application.



Wilderness Wind

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(218) 365-5873
www.wildernesswind.org

To live in this
world
you must be able
to do three
things:
to love what is
mortal;
to hold it
against your bones
knowing
your own life de-
pends on it;
and, when the time
comes to let it
go,
to let it go.

Mary Oliver, "In
Blackwater Woods"

Wilderness Wind is blogging ...

As spring arrives and the earth begins to awake from its winter slumber; Wilderness Wind staff start the migration back to camp in Ely, Minnesota. From May to September the staff at Wilderness Wind find themselves in the busiest time of the year with lakeside cabin rentals, retreats and wilderness canoe trips. As the staff step in the direction of a busy schedule, we want to set up a way for the Wilderness Wind community to feel a part of the happenings around camp, as well as, to continue to build on their connection to the beauty of the north woods and to the inward and outward journey's that take root after time spent in the wilderness.

We hope the blog will allow the WW community to:

- feel connected.
- honor memories and celebrate the wilderness.
- experience strengthening of relationships with God and our "neighbors".
- build connection to the earth, and growth and learning in environmentally sustainable living.

To locate the Wilderness Wind blog, go to: <http://wildernesswind.wordpress.com>. The hope is to post updates each week from the groups that are journeying with us, the guests at lakeside, and to share photos from camp and occasional readings from our morning mediation times. If you join Wilderness Wind this summer and have photos or reflections from your experience in the North woods, please email them to assistantdirector@wildernesswind.org and they will be considered for inclusion on the blog.

Email Communication

Clean out your mail box? Have less paper to recycle? We can help. If you would like to receive mailings from Wilderness Wind via email, please send us your email address and we will see to it that you only receive emails from now on. You can reach us at wildernesswind@juno.com or contact us via our website: www.wildernesswind.org. Thank you for helping us lessen our impact on this earth that sustains us.