

Wind Word



Biannual newsletter for Wilderness Wind Inc.

Spring/Summer 2009

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Photo by Mary Ruth Kamp

Waiting

A few years ago I offered a children's story at church that included planting seeds. I brought in a bowl of dirt, planted a seed, watered it and then asked the children what happens next. One child quickly replied, "We wait." I was stunned, for though that is the truth, my mind's answer was that a seedling emerges. Somehow in focusing on the point of my story, I had neglected a crucial moment in the life of a seed, the waiting.

Waiting isn't something most of us like to do, yet this spring has reminded me of the trust and attention that is involved in waiting. For four long weeks I checked to see if our potatoes were coming up. Finally on week five, the deep green leaves of hope emerged. A gracious friend reminded me that the spiritual journey is not likened to growing zucchini, but to experiencing the growth of an oak tree. In spring, I also relearn that many factors play into the wonder and timing of a seed's germination: soil and air temperature, depth of planting, amount of water and the age of the seed. In general, waiting in uncertain conditions is required.

During the season of spring when we are captured by color, newness and wonder, it is easy to forget that it all involved waiting, darkness (wilderness times), and numerous factors held in a balance. Our culture, and often the church, does not walk toward the darkness or know how to talk about wilderness-like experiences. We are glad that God is a God of light. But God also moves amidst darkness. In the dark times of waiting, we are cracked open and become.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect miracles." The miracles of a mustard seed, the miracles of a seed potato, the miracles of a heart waiting all are available to us. May we find faith in the darkness of waiting.

- Kathy Landis, Executive Director



Photo by Mary Ruth Kamp

"The kingdom of heaven is a mustard seed... which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, becomes a tree."

Matthew 13:31,32 adaptation.

What does this summer hold?

Wilderness Wind has much to offer this summer. There are programmed retreats planned and open trips available. Programmed retreats are focused on a theme and often have an outside resource person. Open trips are canoe trips being planned by individuals or small groups of people who want others to participate and are loosely focused around age or gender. Your involvement is essential to another wonder - filled, inspiring and rejuvenating season at Wilderness Wind. Imagine your place in the wilderness, and call today to join one of the following programmed retreats or open trips. Call Kathy Landis at 218-316-5873 or 316-217-1129 or contact us through our web site www.wildernesswind.org for more information or to sign up for a trip.

Programmed Retreats:

Writer's Retreat: Listening for the Language of Nature

facilitated by Jeff Gundy

July 12th-18th

Wilderness Survival Skills: Living with the land

facilitated by Cheryl Mast.

July 11th-18th

Lakeside Cabin Quilter's Retreat

Oct 1-4th

Open Trips:

Women's Trips

Aug 1st-7th

Aug 9th-15th

Seniors in Denial

Aug 1st-7th

Men and Boys

Aug 15-21st

For more detailed information on the retreats and trips, please visit the Wilderness Wind web site at www.wildernesswind.org or call 218-365-5873 for more information or to make a reservation..

Wilderness Wind nurtures our relationships to God and creation through wilderness living that promotes spirituality, cooperation and environmental sustainability.

The 2009 Paddle-a-thon

Staff and community members will be participating in the fifth annual paddle-a-thon fundraiser this July 28th-29th. July 28th will be the paddling day and the 29th the celebration day. Paddlers and supporters are still needed. All ages and abilities are welcome. If you don't have a paddle partner, don't worry. We will match each paddling team according to their skills and interests. Also you can sponsor a paddler in addition to paddling. This event builds Wilderness Wind's programs, check out the web site (www.wildernesswind.org) and follow the Paddle-a-thon links for more information about who you can sponsor. We look forward to another enjoyable and successful paddle-a-thon.

Lakeside Cabins and Yurt

Come immerse yourself in the beauty, mystery and wholeness of the Northwoods wilderness. Come with your family, your friends or for a personal retreat. There is cabin and yurt availability through out the summer. The cabins will also be available the first week of September and between September 26th and October 10th. Call 218-365-5873 to reserve your cabin or yurt today.



Photo by Kathy Landis

2009 Summer Staff

Mary Ruth Kamp continues on with Wilderness Wind as Publications Editor, working from her office in Ohio. Her life is a patch work quilt in the making this summer: alongside her work for WW, she is working as a barista, demonstrating pottery at local venues, helping garden in three different locations and trying to plan a wedding.



Kathy Landis currently resides in Newton, Kansas. She enjoys working and playing outside, creating, and being with family. When she is not in MN, is often caught smelling the roses in her yard.

Susan Mershon is a native of Portland, Oregon. She attended the University of Oregon and has spent the last year and a half in Boston as an intern architect. She enjoys doing visual art: sketching, watercolors, and woodblock prints. She also enjoys composting and gardening, occasional singing and dancing in the kitchen, and observing nature.



Liz Rempel graduated with a degree in psychology from Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas in 2005. Since graduation she has been pursuing her interest in healthful, vegetarian food by working as a cook and baker. She enjoys camping, travel, reunions with friends, unskilled tennis matches, pets, books, and springtime in Kansas.

Greg Thiessen was born in Austin, TX where he grew up in the Austin Mennonite Church. Greg is a freshmen at Goshen College where he is a Physics and Biology double major. He is on the Goshen College men's soccer team and has enjoyed the varied experiences of an Eagle Scout.



Matt Thomas is a native to Goshen, Indiana. He spent a year in Anchorage with Service Adventure, recently completed his first year at Hesston, and plans on majoring in art and environmental science at Goshen College this fall. Matt enjoys the outdoors, working and creating with his hands.

Anna Weaverdyck grew up in Ann Arbor, MI, and graduated from Bethel College with a Spanish major. One of her personal goals is to live sustainably. This summer, she will be tending Wilderness Wind's vegetable gardens and helping with various aspects of camp operations.



Wilderness Wind is still blogging

This summer you have the opportunity to hear stories from the field as they happen on the Wilderness Wind blog. As a collaborative effort by the summer staff you will gain fresh perspectives into the mission and vision of Wilderness Wind and how these are fleshed out in the day to day lives of campers and of staff. You can find the freshest stories and updates on the Wilderness Wind blog at <http://wildernesswind.wordpress.com>

We are all orchards hiding in seeds.

-Noah benShea



Wilderness Wind

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2009 Wish List

Prayer for staff and campers
Books for the libraries
Licensed plumber to install a hand washing sink
Paddle-a-thon donors
Lap top computer
Paper shredder



Goshen College May term class helped prepare the new asparagus beds.

Photo by Kathy Landis

Email communication option

Clean out your mail box? Have less paper to recycle? We can help. If you would like to receive newsletters and annual reports from Wilderness Wind via email, please send us your email address and we will see to it that you only receive these via email from now on. Please contact us via our website: www.wildernesswind.org. Thank you for helping us lessen our impact on this Earth that sustains us.

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.