

Wind Word

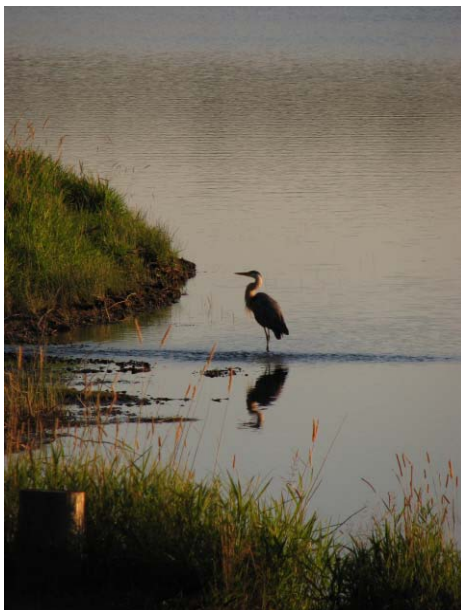


Biannual newsletter for Wilderness Wind Inc.

Spring/Summer 2010

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A workshop presenter was telling about the wilderness trips he takes students on. The point of the trips was to have the youth step outside their comfort zones in order to encounter the untamed holiness of the wild. Someone in the audience inquired, “Are they traveling into places where there are predators that are above us on the food chain?” When the presenter clarified that they were not, the questioner responded, “Don’t lull them into thinking that they have experienced true wilderness. It’s only wilderness if there’s something out there that can eat you.”

Following that definition of wilderness, I realized Wilderness Wind is not taking trips into the wilderness either, comical to think about after leading canoe trips for almost 25 years. The thought quickly passed, however, for I was wrong. We are indeed taking trips into the wilderness. The wilderness in which our trips sojourn is not only the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, it is also the intersection of our culture and the community of Earth that sustains us. This intersection is a bewildering situation, a wilderness, as defined by Webster, the predators, those who will eat you and me, are you and me.

Humans’ relationship with what sustains us, what God has claimed as good, is out of balance. Many of us know this. Many of us feel, hear, see, taste and smell this. Earth cannot and will not sustain “business as usual.” Yet we continue to do just that. Even as green

choices and conversations abound, we continue to build excessively sized homes, dump or flush (toilet paper) the equivalent of 270,000 trees per day, and within the Boundary Waters watershed over 100 mining explorations and proposals are being considered by the Forest Service. Rumi said, “The world is Harmony – Creation, Destruction – I am dancing to them both.” Our dance has become lopsided. We have the power and gifts for creation. When it comes to our relationship with Earth, we have predominantly chosen destruction.

Christ called us to care for the least of these. He also called us to challenge the systems that create injustice and oppression. Today there are many least of these, and this term brings individual faces and stories to our minds. Yet the least of these are also the elaborately intertwined ecosystems that cleanse the waterways for all life. They are the forest communities that provide many species with breath for each moment all the while regulating Earth’s temperature. They are the 25,000 species going extinct each year due to the choices of the human community. Surely the degradation and oppression of these communities and individuals are inflicting harm in both the short and long term. Can we look squarely at our oppressive/predator status and step, leap, even tango away from it?

As Pierre Teilhard De Chardin reflected, “What we are all more or less lacking at this moment is a new definition of holiness.” May we be daring enough to step outside of our comfort zones to encounter a new definition.

Kathy Landis – Executive Director

2010 Summer Staff



Kerri Haldeman



Mary Ruth Kamp



Kathy Landis



Susan Mershon

Kerri resides part of the year in SW Ohio, and formerly worked as a wilderness guide at a camp on the south shore of Lake Superior. She loves manual labor, growing vegetables, baking bread, biking, and is a lover of insects.

Mary Ruth enjoys creating pottery in her studio, the work (planting, weeding, watching) that comes with Spring, and celebrating with words. She was given a true gift while attending a reading by her favorite poet Mary Oliver. She continues as Publications Director from her home in Ohio.

Since last summer, **Kathy** has learned about hospital corridors in Pennsylvania, the Kansas foster care program and the rich significance of soulmates on the journey. She welcomes the vibrancy of summer and watching the sun rise.

Susan has been interning at Habitat for Humanity in Boston MA learning residential construction; valuable experience for an architect-in-training. In the Boundary Waters this summer, she's looking forward to reconnecting with old friends, meeting new friends, hearing the cry of the loon, and improving as a leader.

Michael was raised in Madison, WI, but has lived since in Chicago and Texas. He is a strong advocate for appropriate technology and sustainable living. He will be returning to college in the fall after working as maintenance director this summer.

In 2008 **Matthew** graduated from Goshen College with a major in Physics. Since then, he's been exploring different work settings (restaurants, building sites, vineyards and the school system), while pursuing interests in cooking, reading, making music and playing German board games.

Greg grew up in Beatrice, NE as a part of the Beatrice Mennonite Church. Greg is finishing his undergrad at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, where he is a double major in Biology and Health Sciences. When not busy studying in the library, Greg can be found cycling, rock climbing, or fishing.

Brooke returned in 2009 to St. Paul, Minnesota, after spending a couple of years living in Mozambique, where she talked to a gecko that lived in her shower, until she found him sitting on her toothbrush. She aspires to learn beekeeping and woodworking and is excited provide leadership in the kitchen at Wilderness Wind.



Michael McEvoy



Matthew Rody



Greg Summers



Brooke Wyssman

"Let me keep company always with those who say "Look!" and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads." - Mary Oliver

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

Summer 2010

Journey north and take part in one of the following opportunities being offered at Wilderness Wind this summer. Come for renewal, challenge, transformation, and community.

Lakeside Writer's Retreat - June 24 – 27

* Jeff Gundy and Julia Spicher Kasdorf providing input and instruction

Primitive Living Skills - July 11 – 16

* Travel in the Boundary Water's most remote areas.

Family trip - June 19 - 25

* Family of four, two teenage guys, open to singles, couples, parent-child dyads, family joining them

Women's Trip - July 11 -16

Co-Ed Trip - July 23 -29 (dates flexible)

Father and Son Trip - first week of August

Men's Trip - August 9 - 12

Create your own retreat

in the Lakeside cabins or yurt - May - September

* Canoeing, kayaking, hiking, evening campfires, local field trips



Paddling into the wild. By Mary Ruth Kamp

And don't forget

The Paddle-a-thon - August 7th.

* This year we will head into the Canadian Quetico, sit in waterfalls, play on a sandy beach and as usual, stretch a few muscles. Paddlers and donors are welcome.

For more information on any of the above opportunities call Kathy Landis at **316-217-1129** or contact Wilderness Wind through the web site at **www.wildernesswind.org** There are still openings in the schedule for new trips, so if you have a group or want to create your own trip for your family, friends, or co-workers give Kathy a call. The staff of Wilderness Wind look forward to your participation this summer.

2010 Wish List:

- volunteers to help kitchen and office projects
- a grant writer
- funds to repair both driveways and installation of water lines to several Lakeside cabins
- refrigerator and microwave
- volunteers and funds for yurts and gear storage buildings as Big City Mountaineers expands its work with inner-city youth.
- a laptop (sad but true, another of WW's old computers bites the dust)

Thank you for your donations of:

- a fridge
- a laptop
- a fleet of lightweight canoes
- tents
- a composting toilet

These are very helpful additions to enable Wilderness Wind to fulfill its mission!



Wilderness Wind

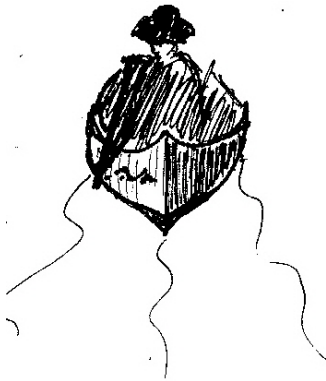
2945 Hwy 169
Ely, Minnesota 55731

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(218) 365-5873

www.wildernesswind.org

www.wildernesswind.wordpress.com



Deals - Deals - Deals

- A 2011 season bonus worth over \$500 goes to the first four groups that book a 2011 trip. Available to first time Youth groups and groups with no less than five new campers.
- Wenonah Sundowner fiberglass canoes, \$300 per canoe.

Wilderness Wind Blog

Don't forget about the Wilderness Wind Blog. Look for staff updates throughout the summer. Expect stories and pictures of beauty, celebration, and transformational learning. To stay connected, visit www.wildernesswind.wordpress.com

Email or hardcopy?

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. Or if you would like to be taken off of the Wilderness Wind mailing list. 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.