



Wilderness Wind:
You knit me together

Annual Report 2010



Wilderness Wind, Inc
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Photos taken by the following people:
Kathy Landis, Matthew Rody,
Val Hershberger, and Susan Mershon.

For it was you who formed my
inward parts;
you knit me together in my
mother's womb.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths
of the earth.

Psalms 139: 13, 15 NRSV

Annual Report 2010: You knit me together

Some moments capture us. One such moment resulted in this year's theme, "You knit me together". I was walking up the hill from the camp's office. Stunned by what I was experiencing that morning, I stopped mid-stride and asked myself, "What is happening here? How can this be?" That day, like several others this summer, the staff joined together to accomplish what looked daunting. The strength of the team is often needed at Wilderness Wind, but this summer was different. The diversity amidst staff paralleled their home locations of Oregon, Texas, Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota. Days off included playing together, but there was also a generous portion of "getting space." Yet, come the work day, systems and people flowed almost seamlessly. Mysteriously, when we could have "worked" our diversity for division, we tailored it for strength, thus reaching a common goal. As I let the morning and my questions sink and settle, "knit together" came to mind. I pondered knitting: how it takes many strands to make the yarn, how a thread can be joined and shaped by others to create a pattern. I also pondered Psalms 139, included at left. I encourage you to read it...slowly.

Could it be that even in our diversity, the staff, as individuals and as a group were knit together for this summer? This was as hard for me to fathom as it was to understand why and how we could work so well together. What struck me most about the passage was "intricately woven in the depths of the earth." This is a phenomenal underlying commonality that holds the entire human community together. We are knit together in unexplainable and deep ways. What if we, as the Wilderness Wind staff did this summer, set aside our diversity to focus on our commonalities and common interests? Before us is possibly our greatest challenge as a human community: to live within the very Earth from which we were hewn and through which we are knit together.

In this year's annual report, our desire was to allow the images to speak of the depth of commonality. We encourage you to sit with these pages. Reside in the stories they tell. Know that you are knit within them. Feel the strength, beauty, and mystery of the tapestry within which we rest.

-Kathy Landis, Executive Director.



The mission of Wilderness Wind is to nurture relationships with God and creation through wilderness living; which promotes spirituality, cooperation, and environmental sustainability.





We are knit together in life. In this space and time we make visible the web that has been knitted around and throughout Wilderness Wind. May our gratitude for your participation in the mission of Wilderness Wind be known. You are what makes Wilderness Wind a strong and complex organization. Thank you for the gifts you each give to build this strength and complexity. Thank you. Our apologies if we inadvertently omitted your name. Please let us know.

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Trevor Wood

Salem Zion Youth Group

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Caleb Epp
Makayla Epp
Jon Graber
Lea Graber
Lexi Graber
Matthew Graber
Christina Hofer
Alicia Hofer
Calvin Janssen
Rachel Kaufman
Dana Kaufman
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Karina Ortman
Mark and Lori Ortman
Caroline Schrag

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Zeb Holsopple
Marshall King
Kathy Landis

Karen McEvoy

Michael McEvoy
Susan Mershon
Brad Mullet
Steve Mullet
Matthew Rody
Greg Summers
Greg Thiessen
Teresa Wasick
Brooke Wyssmann

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Matthew Rody
Greg Summers
Brooke Wyssmann

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25 years of Wilderness Giftings

Wilderness Wind began in 1986 and is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2011. Throughout the year there will be many ways to help celebrate this milestone. Over the last 25 years there have been many gifts and surprises, gleanings of wisdom, shared community and deep lessons learned. For all this and more we howl and cheer. Join us throughout the year in the celebratory events. Below are listed a few that are currently being planned. The Wilderness Wind web site (www.wildernesswind.org) and the blog (<http://wildernesswind.wordpress.com>) will be updated often so that each of you can participate in this celebration year.

- Photo contest (categories and criteria are being determined)
- Where in the world is your trip leader. Blog posts will include stories and photos.
- Trip discounts for new groups/ trip participants (*See page 15 for details)
- Local events

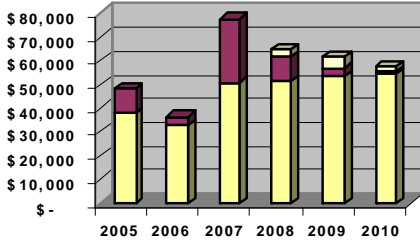
Financial Review for 2010

The following pies and charts offer information on the 2010 fiscal year. For a more complete look at the 2009 fiscal year there will be an article posted on the blog (<http://wildernesswind.wordpress.com>) in early to mid spring. Thank you for your interest and support. Just a few notable things:

- Number of donors were down, but total contributions equaled 2009 levels
- Our fleet of aging canoes was replaced with new ones
- A much needed bunkhouse was built at base camp
- Number of campers served was up 13% from 2009
- Paddle-a-thon donation to Ely community equaled \$1,150
- 1,541 volunteer hours is the equivalent of having another staff person working 40 hours a week for 9.5 months

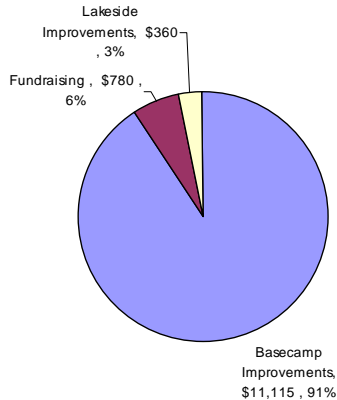
Thank you again for your support. We are grateful for the support through prayers, time, presence, and finances. Your gifts have impacted many lives and continue to shape the future of Wilderness Wind. Our cup of gratitude overflows.

Total donations



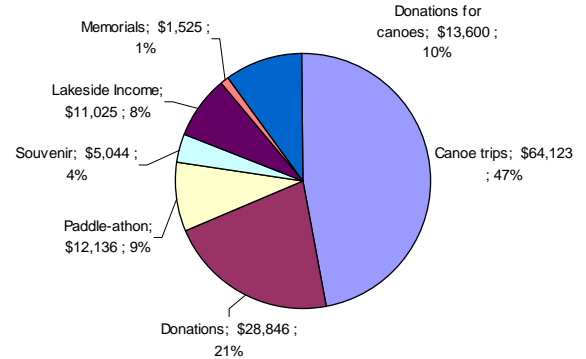
- Memorial donations
- Designated capital improvements

2010 Capital Expenses \$12,255

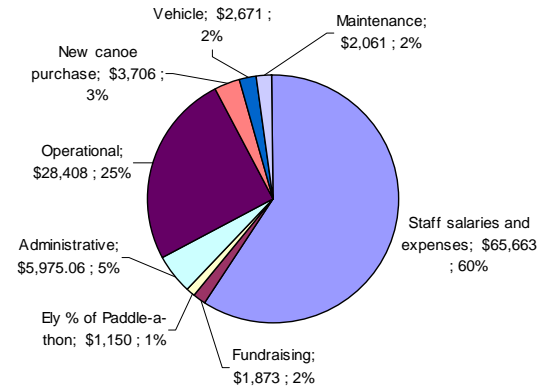


**How wonderful
 it is that nobody
 need wait a
 single moment
 before starting to
 improve the
 world.
 ~Anne Frank**

2010 Program Income \$136,299



2010 Program Expenses \$111,507







Programmed Retreats 2011:

Lakeside Retreats

Lakeside Birding Retreat: The woods are alive with the sound

Dates: June 14-19, 2011

June is the ideal time to learn bird song, habitats and feeding patterns. With its variety of habitats, the Superior National Forest supports 155 species of birds. With the leadership of one of Ely's famous birders, Bill Teft, you can expect to encounter thrushes, vireos, kinglets, and 20 species of warblers including the Connecticut.

Lakeside Cabin Quilter's and Creator's Retreat

Dates: September 2-5, 2011

Let your laughter join that of the loons as we create and enjoy the turning of the season and the fall colors. Quilter's, knitter's, scrapbooker's, and others doing creative handiwork are welcome to attend.

Lakeside Work and Play Fest

Dates: September 7-11, 2011

Breathe in the crisp fall air, help close up camp, and enjoy Ely's Harvest Moon Festival all at the same time. Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome to come for all or part of this 5 day fest. We will work part of each day, and allow for ample time to experience the birch basket weavers, the bead workers, the blacksmiths, and the other 120 plus crafts and demonstrations at the Festival. Kayaking and canoeing in the reflected fall colors will also be incorporated into this week/end.



Canoe Trips

Catch a big one!

Dates: June 4-11, 2011

Trip Leader and Fishing Philosopher: Steve Martin

The wilderness coupled with the connection to nature through a small strand of monofilament and a jig has a purity and perfection to it. Self propelled and close to the water experience this connection in a deeper way than ever before. This group will head into the Canadian Quetico to a lake off the “circuit”. There we will set up a base camp, and spend 5 days fishing for smallmouth bass, walleye, and northern pike. The goal isn’t just to catch fish, but to encounter the natural world. If you love fishing, then come and experience it in a new way. If you love wilderness canoeing, and want to learn to fish that works just as well.

Canoe Trips and Lakeside Cabin and Yurt Rentals

Wilderness Wind is currently scheduling groups for both wilderness canoe trips and lakeside cabin and yurt rentals. There are endless combinations and types of groups to travel with through the wilderness, or to spend days with at a lakeside cabin or yurt. To help you brainstorm, here are a few groups Wilderness Wind has served in the past:

- women’s and men’s groups
- youth groups
- family’s with young children
- father/daughter or mother/son groups
- extended family or multigenerational family groups
- reunion of college friends or any group of friends

*Wilderness Wind will be giving a free trip to the trip organizer/contact person of any trip that brings 6 people who have never been through Wilderness Wind before. This free trip will apply to the first two adult trips and to the first two youth group trips that register and turn in their fees for 2011. Does not apply to rental groups. Certain restrictions may apply. Call (316) 217-1129 or email kathy@wildernesswind.org for more information.



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