



Wilderness Wind names new Executive Director

Wilderness Wind, a Boundary Waters Mennonite camp based in Ely, Minnesota, has announced the appointment of Stan Bontrager as Executive Director, effective November 1. A native of Grand Marais, Michigan, and an alumnus of Goshen College, Bontrager brings to the position a broad range of managerial experience, including campground and recreational facility management, and process analysis and improvement. Bontrager has worked extensively in non-profit and not-for-profit organizations, and has spent the past decade as Director of Information Technologies for a 4-county health department in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



Bontrager stated, "I'm very excited to work with Wilderness Wind staff and board, in sharing with others the transformative power of creation. For the past several years I've been feeling that I should communicate with others, in a more meaningful way, the spiritual possibilities of a contemplative wilderness journey. The opportunity to join Wilderness Wind came at the exact time in my life that I was free from other obligations, and seemed to be a call that I could not ignore."

In addition to interest in backcountry and wilderness exploration, Bontrager enjoys dog-sledding, carpentry, and activities on or around water. "Growing up in a geographically isolated village on the shore of Lake Superior had a profound effect on me," he said. "The power of the lake, and the surrounding wilderness, shaped my world view far more powerfully than the urban society presented through television and other media."

Bontrager's vision for Wilderness Wind includes broadening the outreach of the existing summer programs, and expanding the program offerings to span all four seasons.

Wilderness Wind focuses on nurturing and strengthening relationships with God through a wilderness experience, offering Boundary Water canoe trips and lakeside cabins, for families, youth, church groups and other interested groups. Through Wilderness Wind's partnership with Big City Mountaineers, at-risk youth also learn about the wilderness, cooperation and environmental sustainability.

More information about Wilderness Wind and its program offerings is available at <http://wildernesswind.org>.