

# FROM THE BOATHOUSE

E-newsletter

“Men do not grow from what is given to them, but from what is expected of them.”

-Antoine De Saint-Exupéry

### Our Purpose

To provide transformational experiences in a wilderness setting emphasizing quality, personal growth and relationships.



### Our Values

YMCA Camp Menogyn promotes caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.



### Summer Address

55 Menogyn Trail  
Grand Marais, MN 55604  
Phone: 218.388.4497

### Winter Address

3425 Ihduhapi Road  
Loretto, MN 55357  
Phone: 612.822.2267  
Fax: 612.823.2482

[www.CampMenogyn.org](http://www.CampMenogyn.org)

### Weather at Bearskin Lake:

**Partly Sunny. Highs 73F. Low 55, E Wind between 5-10 mph. Showers Likely.**

### The Charlie Cole Trail Department Building Gets Update

The Charlie Cole Trail building interior has received some much needed loving this spring. Several members of the board, their families and volunteers came up and spruced up the entire room. As you know, the old dining Hall of Menogyn has been a spare working room since 1978 when the present dining hall was built. It is used for food planning, packing out, Welcome prep, poster and art construction space, Long Trip and Nor'wester campfires, staff debriefs as well as First Words and Campfires during wet or cold weather.

Below are a couple shots of the new map board especially constructed by Aaron Bergad, Staff '99-07 and John Horns, former Camper and board member. Many thanks to Joan Carter and her family, Aaron Pyles, Hommes guide '96, and John and his family for all the work they did!



The New Charlie Cole Map Board.

### Bearskin Lake Water Levels the Highest on Record



Just when we thought we would get everyone to pray for rain... Last year at the end of the season the water was the lowest we've seen. Within a month the water rose to well over the La Petit dock. There is a river flowing between Bearskin and Duncan, complete with rapids and all.

Staff Sam Petty and Laura Carpenter Set off for the Staff Break-in trip from the underwater dock



### EMID Group Comes to Menogyn

The East Metro Integration District sponsored a male and a female trail group this summer for a Voyage Nouveau 8 day canoe trip through Menogyn. Working in collaboration with The Friends of the Boundary Waters Thomas Flint Fund and the NFL Alumni Foundation MN Chapter, Menogyn secured the majority of the funding for this program. EMID also chipped in a substantial amount as did the campers.

These groups were facilitated by Menogyn Board Member and EMID employee Sovatha Oum, who has been bringing groups up to camp for five years now, originally with the SE Asian Youth Leadership Initiative. Besides having a real growth experience, several of these campers are hoping to continue with Menogyn on longer, more advanced trips. Each camper makes a unique and important contribution to our camp community. With the help of all our Y Partners, their dreams will be easy to fulfill!

“By the time campers get on the bus our staff have had up to 30 days of training.”

### Menogyn Staff Training

Some people do not understand the depth and complexity of what it means to be a Menogyn staff. For one thing, all Trail Counselors are certified in Wilderness Water Safety training. Wilderness First Responder, (a 70-Hour professionally instructed course by Wilderness Medical Associates) our own 11-day training which includes five days on trail. Plus additional 2-6 day whitewater canoeing, backpacking and rock-climbing specific trainings.

By the time campers get on the bus our staff have had up to 30 days of training. They are chomping at the bit to have their raison d’etre, campers, arrive. After a month of this, who wouldn’t be ready to go on trail and experience life at its fullest?



**A 2008 training session called “Extreme Cuisine” above. To the right is a group processing assignment.**



## 14 Day Esprit Group Makes their Own Paddles



The first 14 day paddle building group built their own solid basswood paddles and took them on trail this past week. Dan Hart, their trail guide also constructed a paddle. Under the helpful and instructing eye of Harper Zwicky, Canoemaster, the five, Matthew and Patrick Ernst, Aron Chlebec and Roark Juwitt picked the shape of their blades then began the 8 hour process of shaping, carving, sanding and finally finishing their paddles. The group stayed one extra day in camp before their trip and are now on trail in the heart of the BWCA.

This program was the brainchild of Aaron Bergad, previous Program Director, canoemaster and Hommes Guide and Chris Chitty, Hommes guide '01. Chris, his dad and his Giving circle of former Menogyn Staff as well as the friends of the late Diane Orbison made the tools and materials possible.

**The Group Sets to Work**

**The Finished Paddles Ready to Go On Trail**



**Harper Zwicky, Canoemaster, Shows camper Patrick Ernst the Finer Points of Shaping His Paddle**



Steve Anderson, Site Manager and surveyor of all he sees is managing the Massie's "Extreme Makeover".

The Massie's side project has begun! This part of the Commitment to Community Capital Campaign includes grading the parking lot side for a bus turnaround, Welcome Center, Maintenance building with walk in cooler/freezer and trailer storage and loading areas. It was pretty interesting this week when the Hommes/Femmes vans were pulling out, the Menogyn bus came in to take our first Voyage Nouveau groups home and of course, the Food Truck arrived all at the same time.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Nor'wester I Welcome, July 17-18**

For Nor'wester camper parents. Space is quite limited for this as ten other groups return from trail that day too!

#### **Menogyn Summer Rendezvous and Canoe-a-thon, July 18-20**

Join us for fun, food, wilderness and fellowship. We had over 150 people at last year's 85th Anniversary. There will be events and activities for the whole family if you wish to stay in camp. And you can go for a day or half-day paddle or hike. Either way, it is a rowdy good time. Download a registration form at

[http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page\\_192.htm](http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page_192.htm)

#### **Long Trip Welcome, Aug 9-10**

I know we just sent them off, but here is when our long trippers are bound to return. If you have a camper on one of these trips please call us at camp to get on the list of guests.

#### **Nor'wester II Welcome, Aug 20-21**

Space is quite limited for this as ten Voyage Nouveau groups return from trail that day too! Please call camp with any questions.

**Our camp contact info is on the front page.**



Taylor's Hommes keeping warm on Menogyn fuel



Kate's Wahkanees Pondering the Paddle

### Long Trip Update

Menogyn has two Hommes du Nord groups for the first time. Led by Taylor Marshall Anderson Fay and Craig Frank Schimnich, they are traveling to the Coppermine and Back Rivers respectively.

Katie Therese Klepinski is going with her Femmes du Nord to the Back river as well while Kate Schousen and her Wahkanees backpacking group are currently in Alaska heading towards McCarthy to get flown into the Chugach Mountains. At the long trip campfire the other night, many of these campers reflected on the importance of their journeys and how much they sacrificed to spend this kind of time in the wilderness. These are excellent young men and woman who deserve all of our support and recognition. We wish them safe, fun and enriching trips!



Katie's Femmes warm their eyes while Craig's Hommes du Nord visually demonstrate the ascent of man.



**"At the long trip campfire the other night, many of these campers reflected on the importance of their journeys..."**

## Nisimaha Goes to Washington

The first Nisimaha since 2002 just left camp for the north Cascade Range in Washington State. This group of very experienced campers includes Jackson Bellaimey, Alex Heegaard Le-Gros, Kaitlin Hibbs, Peter Rusk, Hannah Johnson, Tony Isreal, Ann Raiho and Will Heegaard.

Led by Menogyn Staff Patrick Doty and Jasmine Mastel-Lipson with support from Matt Isreal, they will be doing some basic mountaineering skills and low angle snow travel and learning basic mountain skills.

Patrick has trained with the International Wilderness Leadership School and led the Menogyn Waputiks group last year. Matt also has extensive climbing training and certification through the American Mountain Guides Association. Matt was on the Menogyn Ogidabik as a camper in 2002 and led the rock climbing Nor'wester in 2006. Jasmine has been a Femmes du Nord with Menogyn and trail guide now for two years.

We are excited to have this fine group of young men and women do something different, uniquely theirs and they designed from the ground up. The Nisimaha is a grassroots effort, and only happens when a group of older campers really gets serious about doing a trip together after their Menogyn Long Trip.

For more info on the International Wilderness Leadership School and the American Mountain Guides Association, go to

<http://www.iwls.com/>

<http://www.amga.com/>



The Nisimaha group ascends the Boathouse Dock in a rather sketchy manner.

## The Wilderness Puzzler

**Last month's puzzler was,** "What Menogyn sled dog has finished the Iditarod three times?" the answer is of course, Whirlaway, the best sled dog this side of the McKenzie.

**This month's Puzzler is,** "When was the last time a Menogyn group went to the Coppermine River in the Northwest Territories?"

**The answer can only be found in the next....**

*FROM THE BOATHOUSE!*

-Paul, Mo, Marie, and Steve,