

FROM THE BOATHOUSE

E-newsletter

Weather at Bearskin Lake:

Highs 46F. Low 34, North Wind up to 5 mph. Mostly Sunny.

"I don't like formal gardens. I like wild nature. It's just the wilderness instinct in me, I guess."

-Walt Disney

WinterCamp is December 27-30

Wintercamp happens December 27-30, 2008 and is known as **the best four days of the year**. We make a big, huge batch of our famous hot chocolate. Campers can cross-country ski, snowshoe and weather permitting, dogsled on the trails around Bearskin. Our wonderful sled dogs live on site during the winter and are just coming to camp for the season at Christmas-time. Many campers choose to go on an overnight and may even dig a snow Quinzhee to sleep in. Some campers choose to sleep in our cabins and do day or half day trips. The winter wilderness at Menogyn is stunning in its beauty and inspiration. This program is for all campers 12-18 years old. \$260 includes RT transportation from REI Bloomington. Spots are limited. Please call Paul or Mo with any questions at 763 479-1146. Click on this link to get more information and a registration form.

<http://www.campmenogyn.org/index.asp?pageID=33>



Winter Family Camp President's Day Weekend

February 13-16

President's Day Weekend includes DOGSLEDDING, skiing and snowshoeing opportunities as well as lounging around our lodge by the fire, building Quinzhees (snow huts), sledding, stargazing, or just simply listening to the absolute silence with your loved ones.

http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page_36.htm

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.



Camp 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

Email us at: info@campmenogyn.org

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE FEMMES DU NORD...



Eileen Sorensen either celebrates or questions the Back River



A friendly but suspicious Musk Ox eyes the Femmes group near the northern part of the Thelon Game Sanctuary

“The 2008 Femmes du Nord, led by Katie Klepinski, traveled the Back River to Baker Lake, Nunavut.”



An awesome group has an awesome challenge in an awesome, wild place.



Sophia Potter and Becca Foster celebrate making the end of the lake.

Ice, lots of it. Slow going today...



Menogyn Commitment to Community Capital Project Update

Maintenance Building Progresses

The new maintenance center is currently under construction as part of the Welcome Center/site improvements on the Massie's or South Side of Bearskin Lake. This building will house a working area for Steve to maintain our vehicles, pontoons and motor boats, work on projects as well as storage for tools, seasonal items.



There will also be a cooler/freezer for the food truck to unload fresh items and milk greatly easing a main challenge of the efficient running of camp and increasing our storage ability. If you have ever ran out of milk at a Menogyn dinner you will appreciate this improvement!

The building will be behind some trees from the parking and welcome pavilion areas. All our structures there save the existing brown's cabin will be over 100 feet from the lake and the earth work, completed by Berglund of Grand Marais, has been carefully designed to distribute water runoff from the roof and parking lots through forested areas. Drainage areas and regenerated forest has been created from previously impacted portions of the site that were within 100' of the lake. This will diminish the environmental impact on our lake helping to keep the waters clear and clean. We took as few trees down as possible in this process—even though we could use some more firewood!

but here is a good one of the welcome pavilion from this month (which we should probably get some ideas for a name for the thing—got any? Please send them in!)

Other projects include a small laundry/toilet addition to the Director's cabin (Much appreciated by la familia!) that will be carefully adjoined to the East side. The intent with this is to offer more comfort and convenience for a director with family. It will be post and beam frame, have a mudroom, bathroom and laundry. Due to the remote location of the original log structure, the toilet will not be a plumbed type. The laundry drainage though will be pumped to a lift tank attached to our septic system. Once again, ordinary folks solving challenging problems in extraordinary natural surroundings with extraordinary caring and competency.

The MEA Fall Camp Group at the new Welcome Pavilion, Gate House, Transition Shelter or whatever we are going to call it....at Massie's Landing

If that doesn't say MENOGYN I don't know what does. Thanks to all the volunteers, staff and construction workers who are making this happen!



Y Partners Volunteers are Calling

Now is the time of year that we call all our friends, alumni, camper families and folks who just believe in our mission to ask them to help send kids to camp next summer and change their lives. Last year we financially assisted over 150 kids to make that journey. Our goal is \$147,000 and reaching it is so very important. We are already almost 50% there but we still need to reach everyone. Now you can DONATE ONLINE! So if you wish you can simply go to http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page_24.htm and take care of your contribution anytime, securely over the Internet. If you do get one of our dedicated volunteers on the phone, do tell your Menogyn story and please consider a gift to help our young people grow strong through the wilderness experience. **AND THANK YOU!**

How Did MEA Fall Camp Go?

Fall Camp was a great time with over 25 youth taking the time to come up to camp and go on trail, do day trips, take the cold lake plunge during a sauna and of course do some service. The whole group assisted Steve, our caretaker, to pull Le Petit from the water for storage. Volunteers came up to help with cooking and cleaning, hauling wood and general helping to prepare camp for the winter. Also present were three staff from the YMCA business center. They were there to interview staff and campers and to get the feel of camp so they can speak clearly about our programs when they are back in the office.



Staff Focus: Elise Hale-Case

Elise comes to us all the way from the west coast. Living in Seattle, Washington, Elise is graduating from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, a liberal arts college for women known for its academic rigor and internationalism. Elise was a camper at Menogyn and went to the Wrangell Mountains in Alaska on Meghan Luke's Wahkanees in 2004.

Elise and her older sister Gen were both on staff in 2008 and their mom Betsy was a Menogynite as well.

Elise keeps busy dividing her time between her studies, outdoor pursuits and ultimate Frisbee

The Wilderness Puzzler

Last month's puzzler was, "What prolific, competent and friendly arctic explorer lives among us in Grand Marais, MN?" The answer, which several of you knowledgeable people sent in, is Lonnie Dupre. He's a great guy who is committed to the promotion of environmental awareness.

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

This month's Wilderness Puzzler is, "What is the biggest lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness?"

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

FROM THE BOATHOUSE!

-Paul, Mo, Marie, Dana and Steve. Hey, the whole darn YMCA don't cha know!



Lonnie Dupre