

## FROM THE BOATHOUSE

E-newsletter

### Weather at Bearskin Lake:

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

*"Oui nous pouvons."*

-French Anti-Racism slogan

### 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 round trip 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](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: 763.479.1146  
 Fax: 612.823.2482

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

Email us at: [info@campmenogyn.org](mailto:info@campmenogyn.org)

## *Menogyn 2009 Y Partners Fundraising Campaign Update*

### **Menogyn Y Partners—Help kids grow strong**

Our 2009 effort to raise our goal of \$147,000 is well underway. **Why do we raise this money?** Well it is simple really, to **change young people's lives** through the beauty and joy of a wilderness adventure. Unlike NOLS or Outward Bound and other wilderness programs that work with teenagers, Menogyn's mission (it right there on the first page of every newsletter) is to "transform". We use language in our programs like "camper" and "trail counselor" instead of "student" and "instructor". We focus on three things, growth, quality and relationships. The relationship a young person forges with himself, the members of his group and the natural world is transformative on a Menogyn trip. We have heard all the quotes over the years - over the decades, "My best friends are my Menogyn friends." "Now I know I can do anything in life that I put my mind to." "The things I have learned on my trips have formed me into the person I am today." These lines come not just from one or two campers, but many. They are repeated, in slightly different words over the years but the message is the same—growth. "Min-o-jin" in Ojibwe meaning growth. The same mission O.R. Tripp and other far seeing people began on the shores of Bearskin Lake in 1922.

Currently we are just under half way to our goal so this mission of growing strong kids is supported by so many of our friends, parents, alumni, volunteers, staff and even campers. Even many of our vendors who supply us with our goods and services know the value of a life transforming wilderness trip and participate. If there is one thing we can learn from the recent election, it is the power of the small contribution. The average contribution to Barack Obama's presidential election campaign was \$80. So it is important to know that **participation** is what matters, not how much money one gives. Imagine how many youth we could transform through the Boundary Waters wilderness experience if everyone Menogyn has touched simply participated - to whatever ability they could?

Please help us reach our goal, we will use it wisely to fund campers on their trips, provide the best training for the best wilderness trail counselors and purchase the equipment needed to comfortably bring another new voyager out into the wild in the words of Sig Olson,

"We traveled as the Voyageurs did by canoe, paddled the same lakes, ran the same rapids, and packed over their ancient portages.

We knew the winds and storms, saw the same sky lines, and felt the awe and wonderment that was theirs as the enormous expanses and grandeur of a land that was once as strange and challenging to them as to us."

So if you have received our mailing, email or a call from one of our dedicated volunteers, please consider a gift to this end. It is fully tax deductible of course and you will join a group of caring, committed and fun people who haven't lost touch with what really matters in the education of our young people—growing strong through self discovery. **And Thank YOU!**



***...participation***  
*Is what matters,  
not how much  
money one gives.*

### **Midwest Mountaineering Winter Outdoor EXPO - November 21-23**

Come join us for the outdoor retail event of the season, the Midwest Mountaineering EXPO. Friday 4pm through Sunday afternoon. There will be sales on everything, clinics (Menogyn staff have presented several times here) samples and many outdoor professionals are present for all sorts of answers to all sorts of questions. Menogyn staff and volunteers have a booth where you can come and find the latest news, trip info and 'stuff'. If you would like to help at this booth, call Mo in the office.



<http://www.outdooradventureexpo.com/200811/Index.html>

## Winter Reunion December 19th, 6:30pm

Join us for the annual Menogyn Reunion at the **Bloomington REI Store**. Each year we gather and celebrate our community members, share any news and show hundreds of slides from the adventures from last summer and our Fall, winter and Spring Programs. Everyone is welcome, campers, parents, staff, alumni, volunteers, volunteer Nurses and Doctors (and roofers and labourers!) This is a great time to catch up with your Menogyn friends and trail counselors.

There will be light food and beverages and a couple of awards even.

**If you have pictures from your trips please send them to Mo** at the winter office so she can get them into the show. The MESS group and any other interested folks can help set up and plan the event. Again, ring, email, fax or Facebook Mo!



Good Friends Reunite at the Menogyn Reunion Last Year



## Menogyn Lottery and Information Night December 1st, 7-8:30pm

Come to **Midwest Mountaineering** for this event where you can meet staff, hear stories and see pictures from the trail and in general get any question you ever had about YMCA Camp Menogyn answered. There is no better way to become informed—hence the name, info night!

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=309+Cedar+Ave+South+Minneapolis,+MN++55454&ie=UTF8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-a&ll=44.971827,-93.246868&spn=0.006679,0.013433&z=16&q=309+Cedar+Ave+South+Minneapolis,+MN++55454&iwloc=addr>

## Help Us Sell Christmas trees

After Thanksgiving, the **Bloomington Y's Men's Club** will once again sell Christmas Trees at their lot at 86th and Penn Ave South. This club has been instrumental in helping Menogyn financially over many, many years and this is one of the charity events they coordinate to reach do that. The club members are requesting additional help this year to work the lot and sell the high quality trees. Most customers are repeat and there is a fun, family feel at the lot. They will need workers from November 24 through mid December. They usually sell out by the 15th. Shifts are 2-3 hours in length and you are never alone. If you are interested in helping with this festive volunteer effort, please call Paul in the office 763 479-1146 to sign up for a couple of shifts.



*I think I will  
never see  
a thing as  
lovely as a  
tree...*

## Long Trip Parent Speaks!

"We viewed this trip as an education. This is not a vacation - let's go and camp out with some friends, canoe for a day or two, sit around the campfire for hours and eat s'mores, for 50 days we can sleep in, stay up all night and when we get bored go into town and hang out! - This classroom does not have walls, doors or textbooks yet seven young men and their guide would be tested each and every day; sharing, team building, fears, stress, anxiety, sleepless nights, and certainly they would be missing the comforts of home. (We)...couldn't think of a better education..."



Craig's Hommes du Nord group depicting the ascent of man on the boathouse dock before their epic adventure.

## The Wilderness Puzzler

**Last month's puzzler was,** "What is the biggest lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness?" Mo and I still have no idea (ummmmm...the last newsletter only came out last week...) So send in your answer, because we sure as heck don't know. OK, OK OK it is Lac La Croix. We give up, the power of the intergoogle boggles the mind. How do you stump someone anymore?

**This month's Wilderness Puzzler is,**

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

*FROM THE BOAT-  
HOUSE!*

-Paul, Mo, and Steve.

