

### From the Board Chair

**Looking back** on Camp Widiiwagan's year 2012, I see the Board and each of its committees looking forward. I am grateful for the many board members and alumni who give their time and expertise on Widii's committees and taskforces. There is a breadth and depth to board activities



that I have greater appreciation for in my first year as board chair. I see constant effort to improve the experience campers and parents will have with Widji, be it registering for a camp session, being on trail or attending a banquet at the end of a wilderness trip. Noted below are many, but not all of these efforts.

At right is a list of current Widji board members. Not listed are many Widii board alumni and volunteers who continue to contribute. I am so very thankful for their extensive volunteer efforts; they inform and support the work of our committed and tireless Widji staff.

**Alumni/Community Relations Committee** has led efforts to strengthen the connections in the Widji community, particularly focusing on reaching out through social media, creating and enhancing Widji's website presence. Their activities have also included organizing the 2nd Annual Widji Rendezvous in September.

**Board Development** is a new committee this year, and it has expanded duties beyond those of the nominating committee it replaced. They plan the board's October retreat and May spring social. The committee is exploring ways to enhance board member engagement and reviewing board committee structure and constraints.

**Buildings and Property com**mittee was instrumental in the needs assessment, planning, development and cost estimation of the projects comprising Widji's capital campaign. Twice each year, spring and fall, the committee tours camp and reviews the physical status of each building and the arounds. Currently the com-

mittee is monitoring and advising on the new building and renovation projects occurring at Widji. Years of conceptualizing and planning are changing the facilities at camp, and the committee is enjoying the fruits of its efforts.

Camper Services develops policies to allocate financial aid and makes recommendations about the "camperships" and camper earnings programs. Each January the committee reviews applications and advises whether and how much aid might be given. This committee has the heartwarming task of allocating the contributions earned by Widji's fundraising efforts.

**Executive Committee** is comprised of the executive director, board chair and chairs of the financial development and Widji Y Partner's committees. The committee is also newly created this year and it replaced the prior years' Finance Committee. The executive committee is responsible for initiating and directing new projects in addition to providing the board with financial information about camp operations and expenses, monitoring trends, advising on goals for fundraising and annually recommending camper fees for board consideration. On the committee's agenda is initiating and directing completion of a new strategic plan and forming a task force to plan Widji's 85th anniversary gathering in 2014.

**Financial Development** is concerned with the short and long-term philanthropic needs of Widjiwagan and serves as the planning and coordinating body for fundraising for current operating, capital and endowment needs. The committee works closely with the Alumni/ Community Relations and Widji Y Partners committees to accomplish fundraising goals. The committee is currently working on a tool kit to educate all board members about endowments and other philanthropic mechanisms for giving. The success of this committee's activity over the years is evidenced by the number and value of Widji's family and memorial endowments. Endowment gifts to Widji far exceed the number of other Y camps and branches and they produce income that support Widji camp operations and financially assist its campers.

**Outdoor Learning Program** committee supports the work of environmental education staff and instructors who teach and lead school groups visiting Widji in weeklong sessions during the fall, winter and spring throughout the year. Student and chaperone evaluations from over 25 predominantly elementary and middle schools are reviewed. The committee discusses and advises on environmental education curriculum and activities, funding and outreach to additional school communities and weekend groups.

**Risk Management** reviews and evaluates all reports completed about incidents involving equipment and injuries to staff and campers in camp and on trail during Widji's summer session. Incidents are rated for likelihood of occurrence and risk level and then recorded in a database used to direct investments in staff training and trail equipment the following year. The database documents and monitors the safety of Widji's single staff-led advanced wilderness trips that are unique nationally.

**Summer Program** begins each year by reviewing parent evaluation forms, and all of the camper evaluations of their trips. Items of concern are addressed in the trail staff training conducted in June each year. Other issues may result in feedback and requests for changes in central administrative service functions. The evaluation forms are also reviewed for any changes that would improve receipt of qualitative information. Recently the committee initiated a project to update and reprint the Widji songbook.

**Widji Y Partners** committee formed last year to concentrate on the preparation and execution of Widji's annual fund-raising campaign. The committee focused efforts on Give to the Max Day, call nights and on-line fundraising. These efforts resulted in a marked increase in donations as compared to last year.

In addition to these ten committees there is a **Capital and Endowment Campaign Cabinet.** They have designed and steered the campaign activities of the last two years. The final phase of this campaign will end this spring. Conclusion of this activity will ensure the continuation and improvement of Widji's programs for future generations of campers.

I have sometimes heard the Widji community jokingly yet hesitantly describe itself as "cultish." In my experience as chair this year I see that we don't think **alike**, but we do think **together**. We are a mission-driven, relationship-based and volunteer board comprised of members united by shared values and working collaboratively. Wijdi is successful for lots of reasons, and key among them is our community of passionate and committed board members who always see something to improve. The journey to actualize Widji's unique mission and enhance its program is never ending. My heartfelt thanks to my fellow board members, board alumni and Widji staff. In 2013 we are **ever onward**. —Tom Hiendlmayr

### From the Director

From there, Listening Point, I have seen the immensity of space and glimpsed at times the grandeur of creation. There I have sensed the span of uncounted centuries and looked down the path all life has come. I have explored on this rocky bit of shore the great concept that nothing stands alone and everything, no matter how small, is part of a greater whole....

—Sigurd Olson, *Listening Point* 



I am incredibly inspired by Sigurd's words and believe that it encompasses so much of what it means to be a part of Camp Widjiwagan...no matter what your connection to Widji is, you are a part of the greater whole. At Widji, that greater whole is connected to generations of campers and steeped in tradition. The Widji community extends

throughout Minnesota, across the United States and around the world. Traditions stem from 1929 and have been nurtured over the years to shape summer camp and the Outdoor Learning Program to what it is today.

I was a Voyageur in 1987 and this past summer one of my fellow campers sent her son to Widjiwagan for the first time. Aside from this making me feel a bit old, it was a thrilling connection to the next generation of Widji campers. Her son, who undoubtedly heard many stories and had seen pictures of his mom's trips, now has his own Widji connection.

Schools that send students to the northwoods for a three-to five-day experience at camp find that same connection. While their experience might look different than that of a summer camper, it is no less impactful. In fact, one teacher from Seward Montessori in Minneapolis remarked that when his former students return to say hello to him, they routinely bring up their Widji experience as one of their most important from that period of their lives.

The Sigurd Olson quote is part of a longer quote posted above the fireplace in the Sigurd Olson Center at Widjiwagan. It is a reminder to all of us who are a part of camp, that our own Widji experience, while important, really is enhanced and shaped by being part of the greater whole. —Liz Flinn

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Matt Anfang Matt Bailey Shelley Carpenter Anne Cowie Peter Currie Maude Dornfeld Flizabeth Flinsch-Garrison Cindy Gardner **Edward Garvey** Jeri Glick-Anderson Jenny Hagberg Tom Hiendlmayr Christy Hlavacek Mark Holloway Sara Johnson Keelin Kane Bill Kellogg David Kilpatrick Mary Lou Wood Lamain Kevin Lagos David Lauth Molly Leifeld Anne Lindquist Bruce Maher Lynne Meyer

Jeff Rick Jon Ridge

Elizabeth Miller

**Ned Patterson** 

Lee Schafer

Mark Scott

Court Storey Mary Stoick

Anne Hoyt Taff

Bruce Thomson

John van Vliet

Gail Wallinga

Erin Walsh

Peter West Amy White

Skip Wilke

# A Boys & Girls Club group has first Widji adventure

BY BRIAN GEISLER

ast summer Widji began an exciting new partnership with the Twin Cities Boys & Girls Club. Five boys and one staff member participated in a five-day experi-

ence at Widji.

Although all had been to Camp Voyageur, the Boys & Girls Clubs camp in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities, they were not exactly sure what they were getting into when they signed up for a Widji trip. Traveling to the northwoods from their Minneapolis and St. Paul Clubs was a new adventure for everyone. With the help of Chris Lauth, their Widji counselor, they spent their first two days getting used to life at camp. They stayed in the newly renovated Bear cabin,

learned new camping and canoe travel skills, shared in conversation and canoe talks with Jim, successfully

accomplished the "T-rescue" during their Swim & Swamp time, and learned about cooking and nutrition through their Trail Building pack out. They also learned a few songs and cheers after meals in Kirby. In their downtime and evenings the boys tried out their fishing skills on Burntside and Fenske Lakes.

On the morning of their third day, the group was dropped off at Little Long lake and set out to paddle in to camp. The group met the challenges of headwinds and hot sun throughout the day. The group stopped for an extended trail lunch on a portage and did some fishing

off and on throughout the day then settled in for the evening at one of the channel campsites leading into the North Arm of Burntside. The group also dined in exquisite

> camp fashion with Calzones, did a little more fishing, and had a song and cheer exchange with the du Nord LDP's (a teen Leadership Development Program) that were camping at the other channel campsite. After fishing a little more and then turning in for the night, the boys reflected on their experience and how different it was from being in the cities.

> In the morning, the group enjoyed pancakes and paddled the rest of Burntside into camp. They cleaned their canoes and packed in their gear. In prepara-

tion for the banquet and closing campfire the group had their first sauna experience and cleaned up from their trail.

At the closing campfire several members of the group reflected on the "enormous" spiders of the northern lakes and the fish that got away. Their Widji counselor, Chris, shared a thought about the overall experience, "I think the boys learned about pushing their comfort zones and trying new things (a couple of them were very nervous about canoeing and spending a night in the woods at the beginning), how they affect each other and how to work together as a team, as well as a chance to unplug and observe what is around them (many of them saw their first shooting star and the Big Dipper while we were at camp)."

At Widjiwagan, we are honored to have the opportunity to help our campers experience the greatness of the wilderness and create these experiences with groups like the Boys & Girls Club. Our partnership with our organizational groups helps provide Widji the opportunity to reach more participants in the Twin Cities that may not have the means to get to camp. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Twin Cities Boys & Girls Club!

#### YEAR-ROUND STAFF 2012

#### **Program Staff**

Liz Flinn - Executive Director Brian Geisler- Summer Program Director Missy Huppert - Marketing Coordinator Peter Johnson - Kitchen Manager Karen Pick - Outdoor Learning Program Director Linda Ramacier - Financial Development Director Jim Schwartz – Canoe Master Kurt Simer - Wilderness Program Director Joe Smith - Property Manager Connie Starns - Capital Campaign Coordinator

#### **Administrative Staff**

Jen Fogel- Administrative Coordinator Tracy Ryman - Administrative Coordinator Jennifer Weinzirl - Administrative Coordinator

# Widji Outdoor Learning opens doors wide to local community

BY KAREN PICK

"Thank you guys! Everyone had so MUCH fun! Oh, and the food was really good!" - Ely 5th grader

"Thank you for having me come to your camp. I liked the games that we played. It was fun. My favorite was Predator and Prey. Thanks for everything." - Ely 6th grader

"I had an awesome time! Camp Widji rocks! Thanks for the great day! Hope to see you soon!" - Ely 3rd grader





hese are all comments from thank you notes we received from Ely Public School students this past year. In 2012, the Ely 3rd grade, 5th grade and 6th graders as well as 45 girls from local Girl Scout troops all came to Widji for outdoor education experiences. Most of these students had never been to camp despite the fact that Widji is located only 25 minutes from the town of Ely. It is exciting to open Widji's door even wider to our local community. Students, teachers, school administrators, parents and four local Girl Scout troops have all expressed their appreciation for our willingness to partner with them; helping them explore, understand and play in their backyard. We look forward to continuing and growing this budding relationship. The 7th grade science classes from Ely Memorial High School are scheduled to come to camp in the winter of 2013 along with a return trip for the 3rd, 5th and 6th grades! Widji is pleased to be able to partner with our local community.

#### **GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN 2012 OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM**

Blake School **Boy Scouts** Carondelet Catholic School Ely Brownie Troop Elv 3rd, 5th and 6th Grade Classes Ely Girl Scouts Expo Elementary Fall Women's Weekend Friends & Family of Anne Murphy Groveland Park Elementary Jefferson Community School Kenny Community School King of Kings Lake Country Montessori L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion LSS Youth Services-Oh No 18! Marshall School Matoska International Montessori School of Duluth

Northrop Oak Hill Montessori Olson Middle Schoo Open Door Ministries Seward Montessori Shakopee Area Catholic School Simley High School Sisu Design Southern Adventist University St. Francis-St. James United School St. Paul Academy St. Therese School University of Minnesota ICD Group Valley View Middle School Widiiwagan Board Winter Women's Weekend Yinghua Academy Youth MEA Retreat

# Advanced canoe and voyageur trip leaders undergo thorough training to prepare for summer campers

BY KURT SIMER

roviding our counselors with appropriate training so they are prepared to make sound decisions has long been a priority of Widjiwagan. One example of such training is provided annually to our Advanced Canoe and Voyageur trip leaders. It is our goal to train these leaders in three major areas. First, our leaders need to feel totally comfortable both with their own skills and with their ability to teach scouting and paddling techniques to their campers. Second, our leaders need to develop appropriate judgment regarding both the abilities of the group and the risks they will encounter. Third, our leaders need to have a strong knowledge of rescue techniques.

Their training began with a 4-day trip on the Flambeau River in central Wisconsin. Led by former Voyageur leader, NOLS Instructor, and current Board member, Mark Holloway, this session focused on individual paddling skills,







river reading, and decision-making. With the intent of creating an expedition-style experience, the group spent at least 10 hours on the water each day, and they were pushed to

> the limit of their abilities. The goal of this trip, as with all paddling trainings, was to train our leaders to be able to paddle water that is far more challenging than anything they will paddle on their Widji trips, and to teach them the judgment to know the difference.

Our Voyageur leaders then spent three days with the instructors of the Kavak and Canoe Institute (KCI). This Swiftwater Rescue Training further enhanced the paddling and river reading skills of the counselors while teaching them the requisite river rescue techniques to be able to calmly and efficiently manage any potential incidents. Swiftwater Rescue has

become a standard certification for river leaders within our industry, and we are excited to have been able to provide this experience to our trip leaders. At the same time, our AE Canoe leaders worked with the KCI staff on a two-day training that focused on paddling and river-reading skills. All counselors returned to Widji feeling well-prepared for their summer to begin.

Finally, each of our AE Canoe and Voyageur groups spent a full day on the Kawishiwi River, near Ely, before they departed from Widji. This provided an opportunity for our counselors to teach paddling and scouting techniques and to judge the abilities of each camper before they got on-trail.

The safety of our leaders and campers is our greatest priority. We were comforted to know that these leaders were prepared to handle anything they encountered during the summer of 2012!

# **Distinguished Leaders**

### **Kyra Bornong – Outstanding Youth Leader**



Kyra Bornong is a junior at Southwest High School in Minneapolis. This will be her 4th summer at Widji and she will be going on an Advanced Explorer Canoe trip this summer. This is her 2nd year working with the Widji Leaders Program. She especially loves the Work Weekends at Widji and really enjoyed

the Habitat for Humanity Project the leaders worked on this year.

"Kyra attends all of the planning meetings and events and provides great feedback and suggestions to support the program," says Widji Leaders Coordinator, Rob Donisch.

Outside of her participation with the Widji Leaders, Kyra plays the saxophone in the wind ensemble and was in the pit orchestra for the production of Hairspray. She also plays catcher on the JV softball team and is the captain of the new, work-in-progress, Quidditch/ Broomball team. She is interested in attending Carleton College when she graduates.

"I'm SO excited for this summer!" -Kyra Bornong

# **Christy Hlavacek – Distinguished Adult Leader**



Christy Hlavacek joined the board in 2006, a direct result of the impact that Widji has had on her two camper sons, Rob and Patrick. Their growth and development inspired Christy to return the gifts through her own volunteer commitment.

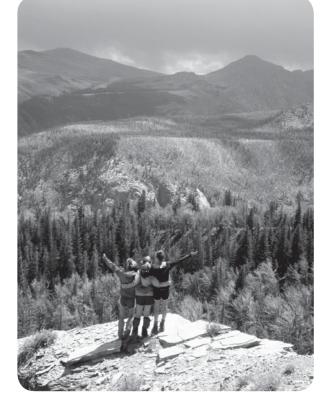
Christy has served as chair of the Financial **Development Committee** 

for 3 years and stressed the importance of stewardship. Following on former Financial Development Karen Crossley's lead in reframing the discussion of financial development, Christy reminded the Widji community that joyful giving is an opportunity. Through her leadership, the Financial Development committee and fundraising in general have taken on a refreshing, rejuvenating new life.

When asked to volunteer time to the current Widii Capital and Endowment Campaign, Christy joyfully and positively responded. Little did she know that it would require weekly meetings, some lasting six hours at a time. Together with Joan Ostergren, Christy chaired the most difficult "middle ground" division, which involved recruiting volunteers, soliciting donors, planning house parties, meeting buses, and encouraging volunteers. Her leadership and attitude shows through the positive results of the major gift division. Enthusiastic responses to the events and

areetinas have resulted in continued gifts to the campaign.

Christy's positive attitude shines through in



every effort she undertakes. She never approaches a task with anything but a "can do" philosophy and that continues to inspire other volunteers and staff to perform with optimum enthusiasm.

2012 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS								
	SUMMER CAMPERS	ORGANIZATIONAL	SCHOOL-YEAR	TOTAL				
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	57	24	122	253				
DOLLAR AMOUNTS	\$91,585	\$13,760	\$38,812	\$144,156				
TOTAL CAMPERS	652	38	1,535	2,225				

# Taking Care of Widji

BY JOE SMITH

So why do we do it? What good is it? Does it teach you anything? Like determination? *Invention? Improvisation? Foresight?* Hindsight? Love? Art? Music? Religion? Strength or patience or accuracy or quickness or tolerance or which wood will burn and how long is a day and how far is a mile and how delicious is water and smoky green pea soup? And how to rely on yourself?





his is a quote from "On The Loose," a Sierra Club book from the '60s that explores the philosophy of wilderness travel. I read the book as a camper and counselor for the satisfaction I got from having the lessons I was learning through Widjiwagan put into words. My current role at Widji has added a new way to relate to those lines; I have found that the same type of questions asked are also asked in the effort of taking care of Widji.

My recent Widji adventures include the repair and renovation of Bear Cabin this past year.

Bear Cabin was built in '49 with logs left over from the construction of Kirby Lodge. I was a close friend of one of the builders, Lloyd Larsen, whom I got to know by logging with him for several years. Bear was the first cabin I stayed in as a camper in 1968.

It was tradition then to put the smallest kids there. A counselor telling a story about a trip from those



days might start with "I was out with a bunch of Bear Denners" and we would know the trail group was first year campers.

A variety of changes motivated the need to work on Bear Den. The Outdoor Learning Program had expanded to where another year-round cabin to complement Lynx on the west side of Kirby was needed. The foundation had shifted and the mortar in the chimney was crumbling. The goal was to finish with a high quality winterized cabin. To figure out how to get there I was helped greatly by Jim Richards, a local dirt contractor well known for his determination, invention, and improvisation. He figured to do it right, we needed to move Bear so that a proper foundation could be dug. Then we could pour a concrete floor with electric heat cables in it. He had a trailer he thought would be able to carry the building. My job was to tear the chimney down and lift Bear 38 inches from the ground.

The chimney came down relatively easy, lifting Bear took a little more time. I had six jacks. One at a time I would lift 1-1/2 inches and start a stack of blocks next to the jack to hold the cabin. Eventually the jacks needed blocks added as well to get the height.

(A short story that is a bit of an aside: at the end of one of the days working with raising Bear Cabin during deer season, I got the urge to try my luck at sunset. I paddled across the bay and found a place to sit. Almost immediately I heard the sound of brush breaking and a deer ran by me which I shot. As I was standing next to the deer, I heard more brush breaking and a wolf, pale grey with yellow eves, came out and stopped 15 yards away with the deer between us. We took a good look at each other and the wolf melted back into the brush. As I was dragging the deer back to the canoe the pack started to howl and growl as they fed on the gut pile. Wolf howls echoed across the North Arm as I paddled home. For me this will always be another memory tied to Bear Den).

Once I had the cabin in the air we had to get the trailer under it, which meant we had to get a large trailer down cabin row, turn it in the right direction and then get it under the cabin without tipping the cabin off the stacks of blocks. We hooked the front of the trailer to a tracked excavator and I hooked the back of the trailer to the skidder and together

we got it in place. In the spring we used the same technique to move the cabin back over the new floor and foundation.

I had left the old wood floor in Bear while moving it to give the building strength. (I had cut out some of the floor joists, Douglas Fir, for Ben Pawlak to use in making new tables for Kirby with wood that would match the original ones). Once in place I removed the wood floor exposing the new cement floor which made the ceiling 18 inches higher than before.



So why do we do it? Widii is in the middle of a campaign to build new buildings and repair some of the old ones. Why? The answer is quite simple...to help Widji better achieve our mission. Without donors, volunteer labor, the help of trail staff, the vision of the Buildings and Property Committee—truly the whole Widji community—this restoration would not have been possible. Bear Cabin exemplifies the commitment the Widii community has made to ensure that Widji is well cared for, now and for generations to come.



**66** Without donors, volunteer labor, the help of trail staff, the vision of the Buildings and Property Committee truly the whole Widji community-this restoration would not have been possible. Bear Cabin exemplifies the commitment the Widji community has made to ensure that Widji is well cared for, now and for generations to come.



### In Memoriam

#### **CLAUDE W. BEWELL**

When it comes to volunteerism, Claude was an excellent role model for many. He joined the Downtown Y's Men's Club in 1948 and was actively involved for over 60 years. He was a link with the past and the future, a link between the former St.



Paul Downtown Y's Men and the present and future St. Paul Skyway Y Service Club. Claude was involved in the sale of Christmas trees all of those years and was motivated to volunteer his time and energy because he knew the proceeds would provide an opportunity for kids to go to camp. In 2006, at the age of 82, Claude was interviewed for the Star Tribune regarding the long-standing Y's Service Club Christmas tree lot. He was asked what kept him motivated to volunteer for so many years and he said it was the ability to assist kids that need help. He said he looked forward to the opportunity to be useful.

Claude created an office in the basement of his home to operate an insurance business. He enjoyed work on machines of all kinds and eventually an offset printing press found its way into that basement office. A hobby soon developed into another way to be in service. Claude and Bernell worked with YMCA staff developing and producing promotional materials for the Saint Paul Y camps and branches for several decades. He served as the editor for the Y Service Club U.S. Area publications for 20 years as well. Throughout his career, Claude used his initiative, expertise and creativity to develop useful means of communication for the YMCA and other non-profit organizations.

Bewell was ahead of his time when it came to technology. He was computer savvy and

had a gift for audio visuals. Claude put that gift to good use at his church, Arlington Hills Methodist, one of the early churches to display their hymns on screens for all to see and sing along. He also developed a power point presentation for the church's services.

Claude passed away on August 18, 2012, was preceded in death by his wife Bernell and is survived by his children Chris, Becky and Craig, ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Claude and Bernell's legacy lives on through their endowment fund, insuring that campers for generations to come will have the same experience that their children experienced.

#### **BOB BINGER**

Bob Binger would be the first to tell you what a powerful influence Camp Widiiwagan had on his life. He was a camper in Widji's earliest years, and, as a counselor, led an exploratory trip to Hunter's Island. That trip



was a forerunner of Widji's advanced trips program. His early wilderness experiences nurtured a deep devotion to the land and Bob went on to make a distinguished career of land management.

Bob served many terms on Camp Widjiwagan's Board and committees. His contribution to Widii carried two distinctive hallmarks: they were made with an eye towards the future, and they were strategically planned to generate the greatest benefits.

In his retirement years, he looked to the future, determined to find a way to preserve financial accessibility for Widjiwagan, du Nord and Camp St. Croix. In 1986 he and his family worked with the camp boards and executives to create an endowment challenge. When the Binger family farm near Lake City was sold, the proceeds established a basis for the camping endowment fund. The Binger

family then challenged the YMCA to undertake an endowment campaign, agreeing to match the funds raised. The result is a growing endowment fund that is continually working to keep YMCA camping financially accessible for youth and families of all backgrounds.

Bob passed away on August 14, 2012, leaving behind his four children who shared his love of travel, wilderness and adventure. He is survived by Tom, Bruce, Rob and Erika Binger.

Bob was a graduate of Saint Paul Academy, the School of Forestry at the University of Minnesota and the Graduate School of Forestry at Yale University. He also attended Naval Training School of Dartmouth College and served his country during World War II and the Korean War. After the Service, Binger worked for the former Minnesota Ontario Paper Company and then became vice president of natural resources for Burlington Northern Railroad.

Bob's legacy lives on through the camping endowment fund he established for Widjiwagan, du Nord and St. Croix, and the camps are forever grateful for his vision and foresight. Campers for generations to come will benefit from his generosity.

#### **CYNTHIA DRISCOLL**

Cynthia Brackett Driscoll, who passed away on September 7, 2012, served on the board of Camp Widjiwagan in the early 1980s. She will be remembered as a person who got things done, whether in public service, writing, gardening or



serving on not-for-profit boards.

Cynthia was a member of the first Master Gardener Class offered by the University of Minnesota. She published over 100 articles in national magazines and wrote one book "One Woman's Gold Rush" about her relative Marv Montgomery Brackett in the Alaskan Gold Rush of 1887. She also served on the school board District #834 in Washington County, started the Farmer's Market in Afton, served on the North Central Experiment Station Advisory Committee, helped plan and support the new Grand Rapids Area Library (2000), started the Young Writer's Fair in Grand Rapids, was a member and board chair of Advocates for Family Peace and was a member of a variety of community organizations.

Her love of the outdoors, inspired by her involvement with competitive sailing on Lake Minnetonka in her early teens, transferred to her children when they attended Camp Widjiwagan in the 1980s.

Cynthia continued to support Camp Widjiwagan over the years by honoring and memorializing friends and relatives with gifts to the Widiiwagan General Endowment Fund for over 40 years. Continuing gifts over time have created a legacy for Cynthia as campers into the future will continue to benefit from her lasting contributions.

Cynthia is survived by her husband Charles (Todd), children Melissa, Julia, Robert (Pedro), and John and five grandchildren.



"EVERYBODY gets into the act" for the Hengelfelts at their semiannual YMCA garage sale. From left: daughter Carole, Seth Dahlquist, Bob Jr., Bob Sr. and wife Sue with daughter Jenny in front, and friend Scott Dahlquist. Bruno, the St. Bernard, is center front.

#### **BOB HENGELFELT**

Camp Widjiwagan lost a beloved volunteer, Bob Hengelfelt, on March 7, 2012. Bob possessed endless energy, optimism and good humor. He was a "can-do" quy who always answered "yes" to any request



for help. When Bob and Sue first offered to host a garage sale on the front lawn of their Roseville home in 1970, it didn't seem to be a big deal. Friends from the Widji Friends Club lent a hand and the sale became an annual event for nearly three decades. Over the years, the Garage Sale at the Hengelfelt's raised nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. They started the Garage Sale because they wanted to do something for Widji and thousands of campers have been impacted by the proceeds of the sale. The Garage sale moved to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in 2000, but the joy and dedication of Hengelfelt family traveled with it.

Bob volunteered for many terms on the Widji Board from the 1970s thru the early 1990s. serving on a variety of standing committees. He served as the Board Chair from 1988-1990 and in 1989 he led the search committee when Rolf Thompson was named Executive Director. Bob was also involved with Widji's annual campaigns and several capital campaigns for over five decades, raising thousands and thousands of dollars. The impact that Bob has had on Widji's fundraising efforts is priceless.

He also kept a watchful eye on land development that would impact Widii and du Nord. In the early 1980s, a threat of a condo development next to Camp du Nord appeared. Together with Bob Binger, Bob played a significant role in the preservation of the area that would have ended the peace and solitude of both Camps du Nord and Widji.

### In Memoriam

Bob was not a camper, but he understood the impact that the camp had on his wife Sue and her sisters. When his four children were old enough, all of them became campers and later became seasonal staff. Bob was proud that his grandchildren became Widji campers.

Bob enjoyed a long career in finance. He is survived by wife Sue, children Carole, Bob, Jenny, and Tom, and six grandchildren.

Bob has left a legacy at Widji and many friends have honored him with memorial gifts to Widji's General Endowment.

#### **DOROTHY LUNDAHL**

Though she had visited Wijdi only once, Dorothy Isabelle Shipman Lundahl understood its value to her daughter and other young men and women. She supported Widji as a continuation of her and



her husband's support of other Ys and of her love of the out of doors through an endowment fund, which benefitted Chapel Point. She asked about the progress and use of Chapel Point until the last years of her life.

Dorothy died August 13, 2012 in Naples, FL.

She was born in Chicago in 1918 and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1940 with a degree in elementary education. She married Arthur (Bud) Lundahl in 1940. He was chair of the YMCA board when a new Y was built in Des Moines and co-chaired the campaign to raise money for a new Y in Rock Island, IL.

In Des Moines, she was the leader of her daughter's Camp Fire Girls group, and to set an example for the other girls, sent her daughter off to camp at age seven. That began her

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### In Memoriam

daughter's camping career which led her to Widji as camper and staff. Dorothy always wanted to go along on a canoe trip.

When widowed in 1981, Dorothy moved permanently to Naples, FL, to sail her boat and play golf and tennis. Even when dementia put her in a nursing home and she could no longer walk, her blue eyes still sparkled and her spunky spirit remained.

#### **HERB PICK**

The Widji community lost a dedicated volunteer and avid supporter when Herb Pick died last summer. Herb served on the Widji Board for six years and beginning in the mid-1980s



was a longtime volunteer at Y Partners call nights, the garage sale, the Camper Reunion and many other Widji functions. He also spent time volunteering at camp digging ditches and shoveling snow with Joe Smith and program staff. In fact, pretty much any opportunity to help Widji that came his way, Herb enthusiastically participated in and enjoyed. His cheerful nature was contagious and he made whatever Widji project he took on a lot more fun and interesting for everyone through his presence and conversation.

Herb, the grandfather of two 2012 Widji summer campers and father of former camper, counselor and current Program Director, Karen Pick, instilled a love of outdoor adventure in his entire family. He and his wife Anne took their three daughters camping on Lake Vermillion, on sailing trips in Maine and California and on Boundary Waters camping trips. After Karen discovered Widji as a teen, Herb took great joy in supporting and encouraging her participation as a camper and counselor. In addition to these family endeavors, Herb treated each of his children to a father/daughter adventure of her choosing; biking from Minnesota to Maine with Cindy, sailing

for three weeks along the coast of Maine with Gretchen and canoeing from the top of Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay with Karen. To both their great delight, Herb also spent three weeks co-guiding an Arctic canoe trip with Karen for an eco-tourism company.

Herb mentored hundreds of graduate students during his 49-year career as a professor at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development. Along with offering his academic wisdom, for more than 30 years, Herb shared his love for the outdoors by leading students and faculty on winter camping trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Herb believed very strongly in the positive outdoor experiences that Widji provides to students and summer campers. He and Anne together placed great value on the benefits that young people gain from exploring, playing and learning about the outdoors and made a commitment to help make sure that Widji's programs are available to all who want to participate. This commitment continues through Anne and the many people who made a contribution in honor of Herb.

### **Capital & Endowment Campaign Volunteers**

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#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP SUSTAIN WIDJI**

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan endowment funds provide essential support for camperships, programs, operations and more. Your donations will help.

- ▼ Gifts to the YMCA Camp Widjiwagan General Endowment Fund provide support to Widjiwagan where needed most.
- ▼ Tribute gifts to any fund may be made in honor, memory or appreciation of friends or loved ones.
- ▼ Include Camp Widjiwagan in your will or estate plan and be recognized as a Heritage Club member.
- ▼ For information on establishing a named fund, please contact Linda Ramacier or Liz Flinn at 651 645 6605 or linda.ramacier@ymcatwincities.org or liz.flinn@ymcatwincities.org
- ▼ Send donations to "YMCA Camp Widjiwagan Endowment" and write the name of the fund you are contributing to in the memo line.

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan, 532 County Road F, Hudson, WI 54016

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#### **Waid Johnson Endowment Fund**

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### **Bruce Koci Memorial Wood Canvas Canoe Fund**

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in memory of Bob Hengelfelt Blake and Sandy Davis

*in memory of Waid Johnson* Sue Hengelfelt

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#### 2012 YPARTNERS CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

The 2012 YPartners campaign reached a total of \$207,282 in donations with a goal to achieve \$245,000. Camp Widiiwagan is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who donate time every year to contact our alumni, campers, staff, family members and friends to raise money for this important campaign. The funds raised support camperships, which helped 57 summer campers fund their 2012 summer trip. In addition, 122 participants received assistance to the Outdoor Learning program during the fall, winter or spring. The annual YPartners campaign also supports staff development and repairing and replacing trail equipment, wood canoe maintenance and other important projects.

The campaign to raise funds for 2012 took place in the fall of 2011 and was chaired by Bill Kellogg. Many thanks to Bill, the following chairs and all of our other volunteers:

**YPARTNERS TEAM** 

**General Calling:** Shelley Carpenter, Mary Stoick

**Board Division:** Ned Patterson

Major Gifts: David Kilpatrick, Tom Hiendlmayr

Team Leaders: Matt Bailey, Ed Garvey, Tom Hiendlmayr, David Kilpatrick, Mary Lou Lamain, Ned Patterson, and Court Storey

A special thanks to the 103 general call night volunteers and to the 35 major gift campaigners who dedicated time and energy to support experiences for youth at Widji.

ENROLLMENT HISTORY				
CAMPERS	2012	2011	2010	2009
Summer Session Campers	652	642	647	646
Organizational Group Campe	ers 38	22	24	11
Outdoor Learning Campers	1,535	1,460	1,491	1,643
Year Round Total	2,225	2,124	2,162	2,300
CAMPER DAYS	2012	2011	2010	2009
Summer Session Campers	13,421	13,828	13,176	13,085
Organizational Group Campe	ers 291	233	174	125
Outdoor Learning Campers	5,346	5,779	4,584	6,383
Year Round Total	19,058	19,840	17,934	19,593

### **YPartners**

#### **HUDSON BAY** \$5.000-\$9.999

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### **YPartners**

**My son LOVES his** experiences with Widji. They take him seriously, give him real responsibility, and encourage him to be his best. He has learned leadership skills and teamwork. And he loves the wilderness, even more so because of Widji.

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### **YPartners**

**CC** Widji gives our young people an opportunity to be in pristine, untouched nature, with a group of similarly-minded young people, who may be the stewards of our earth's preservation, but also to challenge themselves, to work together, in a unique experience.

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### 2012 Leaders: **VOYAGEURS:**

Jack Weise - Kazan River

Martha Sample - Kazan River

Joe Goldes - Coppermine River

Nina LaFave - Hanbury River to the Thelon River

Emily Ranta - Hanbury River to the Thelon River

Austin Danicic - Elk River to the Thelon River

#### **MOUNTAINEERS:**

Nat Shepard - Gates of the Arctic National Park Dana Crawford - Gates of the Arctic National Park Megan Schleck - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Dan Kise - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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Heather Kindem

### **YPartners**

**C** For an adolescent to experience him/herself in a small group of colleagues and counselor in NATURE, without the usual diurnal electronic distractions and artificially imposed limits and privileges, gives my son significance in his life that is not of a material world. As he said to me after a previous Widji trip,"Mom, the mountains are in my blood...they speak to me!" This year had an equally profound impact on him. coming to terms with important decision-making experiences that affected the others' welfare in his group. When he's on trail. nothing is insignificant! These are life experiences and memories that he will have his lifetime, I know. And knowing others in deeper than superficial relationships is great for developing interpersonal skills.

### **YPartners**

**Each** trip my son has taken, and particularly this last one, have been transformative experiences. Beyond the obvious wilderness and water skills that he's developed, the time on trail has expanded his thinking—his art and writing, made him more self-reliant, and given him lasting friendships.

Casey Knips Ken Koehler Theodora Koeppen Roger & Jennifer Kramer Marian Kramer Myrtle Kranz Rick & Katie Krause Colleen Krebs Barclay Kruse John & Madelyn LaFave Juanita Lagos-Benson & Chris Benson Mary Lou Lamain Maury & Julie Landsman Caroline Lauth Catherine Lay & Henry Jerome Joy Leibman Greg & Molly Leifeld Anthony & Christine Lema Robert & Esther LePage Irving & Gwen Lerner Christina Lewis Daniel Liljedahl & Lisa Himmelstrup Albert Lindeke & Terese Campbell Lindeke

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Nancee Lundeen

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Hannah Elton-volunteer Mike Grace-volunteer

Tvler Henkels-volunteer

Mark Holloway-Whitewater Training trip leader David Lauth and Lindsey Thomas-Digital piano Jim Richards-Generator use during power outages

Beth Robelia-Yarn and knitting needles

Marty Ruddy-Construction Consultation

Steve Sawyer-construction items

Nick Sontag-Backpack, bug shirt and pants

Terra Firma-Biffy Construction

Wellington Management-Steve Wellington-Storage space

Garage Sale Volunteers: Numerous and dedicated volunteers drove the garage sale to success. Sale proceeds benefit both Widji and du Nord camp programs.

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