



2013 Year in Review

WIDJIWAGAN

YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES



Message from the Board Chair

"... I marvel at the way each generation of Widjiwaganites has identified those values of most constant good, and has held them close to the heart of all that Camp is.... The element of comradeship in its strongest form is one of those constant goods that Widji has sought to retain through decades of change.... Lifetime friendships form from the shared experiences."

—Gary Clements in his Editor's Note to *WIDJIWAGAN A History, from 1929 to 1989*, authored by Dwight Ericsson and John Shepard.

This last summer in August 2013, I accompanied my daughter Leah and her "Arctic daughter" Sarah Carpenter to Camp for the return of Emily Myhre's Voyageur group. I asked them to relate their thoughts and feelings about their reunion. Their stories below are evidence of the accuracy and truth of Gary Clements' words. And when "Widjiwaganites" refer to "traditions" and "legacies," I think you'll agree those terms are fitting and not at all boastful of the bonds Leah, Sarah and Emily have to each other and to Camp Widjiwagan.

—Tom Hiendlmayr, Board Chair

Leah: I left Widji in 2008 after 10 consecutive summers, five as a camper and then five as a staff member. I had fulfilled a dream of leading an Arctic trip, created meaningful relationships with my campers and knew two of my campers were intending to become staff members the following year. Although it was incredibly painful to walk away from a place that had helped shape who I had become as a person, I knew it was time for new experiences. I didn't intend to stay away for so many years, but I didn't step foot on

camp property again until this last summer when one of my campers returned from leading her own Arctic trip. I remember Myhre calling me with excitement in her voice as she informed me that she would be returning to the Arctic with her own group of young women. "Leah, you are now an "Arctic Grandma," she had said. I was ecstatic! Over many summers, I had grown up with an abundance of strong-willed, intelligent, and adventurous Widji women as peers and role models. I felt proud that the values that had been

instilled in me and that I had tried to pass down to my own group were indeed going to be passed down to a new generation. I knew when Myhre and I got off the phone I wanted to be at her banquet.

Sarah: After working for Widji for many summers, the time came when I was offered and accepted a full-time position that prevented me from returning for a final culminating summer to lead a trip. My choice meant giving up my opportunity to go to the Arctic with the young ladies whom I had worked specifically with the previous two summers. Leaving Widji at this point was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make. Ultimately however, though I left behind the chance to lead an Arctic trip, I learned I could never truly walk away from the community. This past summer, despite the fact that I was living in Boston, I flew back to Minnesota for Emily Myhre's banquet. I had to be there to support my long-time friend Emily who went to the Arctic with me as my fellow camper five summers ago. Those 40 days in the Arctic were beyond formative for our friendship,

but the subsequent summers side by side leading trips were what created an unbreakable connection that I know will last a lifetime. I could not imagine getting a mere phone call from Myhre telling me she was back. No. I had to see her face. I had to see the joy, the stress, the wonder and amazement for myself. I had to be there to support the women of 2013 as well. Though I was not a part of their Arctic experience, the previous summers spent in vans, in camp and on trail have burned many memories into my brain. I wanted to be there to show them how proud I was of their accomplishment—an incredible, challenging journey in the Canadian Arctic. You grow on trail; age and mature in a way that brings a light to your face. I wanted to see their newly acquired confidence and wisdom. I would never have missed the opportunity to witness that moment.

Emily: Paddling to the beach and Trail Building dock for my entrance back to Widji with my campers, I had no idea that waiting beside my family would



Jesse, Leah, Sarah and Emily

be my counselor, Leah Hiendlmayr and two close friends Sarah Carpenter and Jesse Bell Bern, who were campers with me. Seeing the three of them walk towards me on the crowded beach brought forth a feeling of overflowing joy. Though it had been five years since we were paddling to this same beach, and we had all matured in many ways, seeing them made me feel like it was just yesterday. The feeling of joy and excitement transformed slowly into something more meaningful to me: the perception of how far I had traveled and grown as a person. In the moment I felt like I had my feet in the past and the future. I saw my role traveling the Dubawnt River in 2008 as a camper; and I saw my role leading a successful trip down the Kazan and Kunwak Rivers, mere days previous. The intersection in that moment of the past and the present was both

a reference point from where my 2008 group had come, and a forecast for the future of the campers I led: I knew lifelong friendships had been created in another generation that would evolve and mature in the future. I knew my campers would find comfort in this awareness, as our trip was over and the next day we would be separating, leaving Widji. And I knew that the ending, the final “get on the bus” was not really a conclusion, but the beginning, an invitation even, for our friendships to grow, evolve and enter different stages as we tackled new challenges and adventures.

Leah: It is impossible to articulate the magic that surrounds groups when they first step onto the Widji beach. It is the only time an outsider gets a peek at a group’s trip. Everyone is together, they are basking in the joy of what they have just accomplished as individuals and as a team, and they have the “Arctic glow,” the aura that seems to surround every group when they return to camp. I felt lucky to stand on the shore with two of my other campers as we watched Myhre and her

young women paddle to shore. I flashed back to the moments five years ago when I had family and my fellow camper women standing on the shore to welcome me back and the emotions I felt when stepping onto that beach: relief from responsibility for our safety, pride for the incredible journey we had completed and sadness that our trip and time together were coming to a close. It was surreal to watch Myhre with her group. I was removed. I didn’t know any of her campers, but it still felt familiar. I saw their unity, and resonated to their laughter.

Sarah: As much as I had to be there for Emily and her campers, I went for myself as well. I went to confirm that no matter where my path takes me, I always have a place in the Widji community. I won’t tell you that it wasn’t a hard thing to experience being on the sidelines. It made my arms ache for a paddle. But I know my adventuring days are not behind me, and there are many paths towards adventure that extend beyond that place on the North Arm of Burntside Lake. I think that is the beauty of Widji.

It is a place that acts as a home, a base camp. It teaches you incredible lessons. But in the end you are no more tied to that particular place than to any nightly campsite while on trail. This is not because Widji is not important. Quite the opposite; it’s because you carry Widji with you for the rest of your life.

Leah: Widji creates humbling and life-changing experiences for campers no matter the trip length. Those experiences never leave you. With such powerful experiences comes the desire as a counselor to keep those traditions, experiences and the power of the wilderness alive in each other and to provide similar experiences for new generations. Simply the way Widji works like no other organization is that as a staff member you have the honor of progressing through trips alongside staff and campers to culmination in an Arctic trip. Whether or not this originated as an organizational intention, it has become a tradition that makes such a trip as meaningful for the counselor as the campers. Never change Widji! ▼

From the Director



Last August I had the privilege of travelling to Philadelphia to attend a national meeting of YMCAs. Over 5,000 people attended the conference from YMCAs around the country. Whitey Luehers, former Widji director and life-long YMCA professional, was

inducted into the YMCA Hall of Fame. He joins an elite group of just over 100 others in the Hall of Fame.

Whitey was involved with Hi-Y while in high school and a summer staff member at Camp Manito-wish. He graduated from George Williams College and then embarked on a 41-1/2 year career with the YMCA. He began his camping career in Iowa and finished his career helping turn around camps that were struggling.

Whitey was the director of Widjiwagan from 1950 to 1962. His impact at camp is still evident today. It was Whitey who believed that a trail group should be small to ensure campers were able to get to know one another and their counselor. It was also during Whitey’s tenure that opportunities for girls and female staff became equal to their male counterparts (previously all-girls trips were co-led by one female counselor and one male guide). Whitey and his board saw an opportunity down the lake from Widji and established Camp du Nord as a camp for families.

My personal connection to Whitey stretches back to when my mother was a camper. Whitey was the director and she recalls his tremendous presence around camp—when he spoke everyone listened intently. I feel fortunate to be able to maintain a connection with him today. He has an incredible memory of events at camp.

Widji is lucky to have had Whitey helping to guide our early years. Congratulations Whitey on your tremendous honor—you deserve it! ▼

—Liz Flinn, Executive Director

The Widji Connection

BY BRIAN GEISLER

As the last group of campers left Widji on August 25, 2013, to head home and start school in the following days, there was a small sense of relief of another completed, successful summer, but there was more a sense of satisfaction that in just three months, Camp Widjiwagan helped connect over 650 young people back to nature.



Throughout the summer, Kurt Simer, Liz Flinn, and I have the opportunity to listen to almost every camper share a small reflection or highlight from their trip. If you were sitting in the audience at a closing campfire this summer you may have heard from an Intro Canoe camper sharing the epic story of carrying a canoe for 50 rods or an Explorer camper talk about the bond that was shared with their group while watching the sunset on a group of rocks and no one said a word, or hear a Mountaineer camper talk about the grizzly bear they saw and how watching it (from a safe distance) was both the most beautiful thing and the scariest thing they'd ever seen.

Hearing those tales from the trail, we get a small sense of the real experience and connection that camper had made to the natural environment. Whether it's a story of extreme challenge or sheer beauty, Widjiwagan has helped create an experience that can shape a camper's attitude for the rest of their lives.

The Widji Way has helped young people develop a sense of respect for their peers,

themselves, and the environment for 84 summers. While the importance of connecting young people to nature is no doubt at its highest point ever, it is comforting to know that Widji continues to hold on to those values in its mission and create the next leaders and champions for the environment.

The popular book, *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv*, sits in a visible spot in my home and is always a reminder that I need to do more with my young sons to give them the opportunity to create their introductions and connections to the out-of-doors environment. If you've read the book, you may recall towards the back, the section titled "100 Actions We Can Take" and more specifically I'm referring to the first 44 actions. On any given Widji trip, many of these actions are things that just come naturally to the experience. Some of my favorites, as well as campers': "9. Be a cloud spotter, 13. Invent your own nature game (like Thicket, which is awesome!), 22. Go for Gross! This is inevitable on a muddy portage full of muskeg—while smelly and a little gross it definitely is an experience that makes campers smile! 44. Be prepared. Widji is a place that embodies this one! These are some of the small, yet very memorable things that occur through Widji's trips.

Ask a camper from 2013 a question about their trip like, "How were the bugs? What was the water like in June? What is Homie G?" I guarantee there is more going on in the camper's head than just the answer they say, and probably in most cases, they say it with a smile. The connection to nature is so powerful. We couldn't be more excited to help create these connections for future campers. ▼

**Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2008



YEAR-ROUND STAFF 2013

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

Community School of Excellence comes to Widjiwagan!

BY KAREN PICK

In September of 2013, 67 eighth graders from Community School of Excellence in St. Paul climbed aboard their bus and headed for a four-day stay at Widji. The majority of students had never been to northern Minnesota before so the flora and fauna of the boreal forest, the scent of the pines and topography of the granite shield were new to them. In addition, it was the school's first trip to Widji so the entire program experience was a first for everyone. However, from their first steps off the bus, the kids were curious, inquisitive, engaging and super excited to explore their surroundings. It didn't take long for the students to learn their way around and quickly become comfortable here. Their enthusiasm was contagious and we were soon all laughing and learning together.

Over the course of four days, we took the students canoeing (for many it was their first time), hiking (both in daylight and at night), taught them about glacial geology, wolves and

the animals and plants of northern Minnesota. In addition, because the majority of the students are all Hmong or Hmong American, they shared a tremendous amount about themselves and their culture with us. It was such a fun learning experience for everyone.

The students listed some things they will remember from their time at Widji:

"Seeing a shooting star during the night hike."

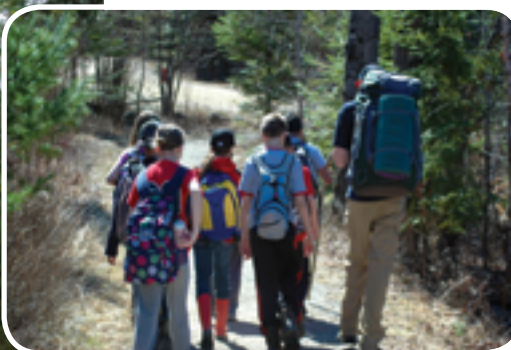
"The view on the rocks at Chapel Point."

"I will remember Widji, everyone, food, kindness, respect and having fun!"

"When my friends and classmates did so many challenging things."

When asked for a one word or phrase that describes your experience at Widji, students replied:

Exciting! Awesome! Amazing! Wonderful! Beautiful! Fun! Fantastic! Teamwork! Fun and Great! Incredible! Friendship! ▼



GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM -2013

Blake School	Matoska International
Boy Scouts	Montessori School of Duluth
By the Light of the Moon Knitting	Northrop Urban Environmental School
Carondelet Catholic School	Oak Hill Montessori
Community School of Excellence	Olson Middle School
Ely Brownie Troop	Open Door Ministries
Ely Girl Scouts	Seward Montessori
Ely 7th Grade	Shakopee Area Catholic School
Expo Elementary	Simley High School
Fall Women's Weekend	Southern Adventist University
Free at Last	St. Francis-St. James United School
Friends & Family of Anne Murphy	St. Paul Academy
Great River School	St. Paul Lutheran School
Groveland Park Elementary	St. Therese School
Jefferson Community School	U of M Institute of Child Development
King of Kings	Valley View Middle School
Lake Country Montessori	Washington Elementary
LSS Youth Services- Oh No 18!	Widjiwagan Board
Marshall School	Winter Women's Weekend
	Youth MEA Retreat

Co-sponsorship of Midwest Risk Management Symposium promotes values of safe, fun and enriching programming

BY KURT SIMER

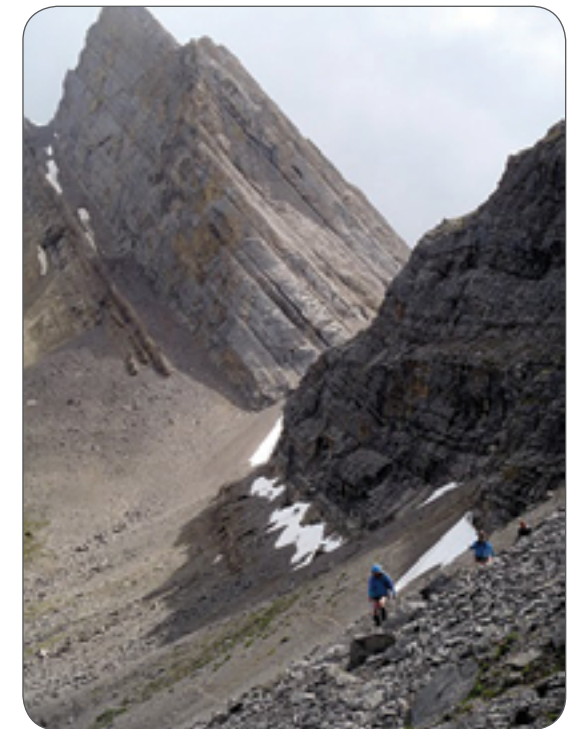
During the summer of 2014, Widjiwagan will be celebrating 85 years of safe, fun, and enriching programming. Widji would not be able to celebrate such a milestone without the hard work of thousands of administrators, staff members, campers, camper parents, and volunteers. This dedication to the success of Widji has seen the Camp evolve into a premier wilderness adventure organization. We have learned a great deal, from both our successes and our failures, about how to provide life-changing wilderness experiences for our campers.

Near the end of October 2013, Widji had the opportunity to pass along some of these lessons, by co-sponsoring the inaugural Midwest Risk Management Symposium. In organizing this Symposium, I worked with Mo Mayo from Camp Menogyn and Ryan Wagner from Camp Manito-wish, to comprise the Symposium Steering Committee. The mission of the Midwest Risk Management Symposium is to provide an opportunity for outdoor educators of the Upper Midwest to collaborate and to contribute to the advancement of risk management practices.

In 2013, we hosted the Symposium at Camp Manito-wish, with the modest goal of 30 people in attendance, including our presenters. The mission of the Symposium was so well-received that we ended up with 54 attendees, representing 22 different organizations! The Steering Committee brought in speakers from around the country to provide their risk

management expertise in the areas of crisis management, staff training, risk analysis, and program development. Widji played a very large role in the success of this Symposium. Along with my position on the Steering Committee, I gave a presentation on Incident Analysis, our Executive Director, Liz Flinn, was one of the four Keynote Panelists, and Widji paid for three of our counselors to attend the Symposium for free.

Widji has become a regional leader in wilderness adventure education, and co-sponsorship of the Midwest Risk Management Symposium has thus far been a successful next step in embracing such a role. ▼



Distinguished Leaders

PETER JONES – OUTSTANDING YOUTH LEADER



Peter is a senior at Nova Classical Academy in Saint Paul. He has been a Widji camper for five years. This summer he will be a Mountaineer. Last year was his first year being a part of the Widji Leaders. He jumped right in and became a member of the Steering Committee. Widji Leaders participated in a variety of volunteer

projects including working at the Widji/du Nord Garage Sale, at the City of Lakes Loppet and in Ely with the dog sled race.

JOHN PATTERSON – DISTINGUISHED LEADER

John Patterson joined the board in 2003. John had been a camper and Voyageur and was on staff for several years. John is the proud parent of two Widji campers and lives with his wife Julie in Saint Paul.



John has been an outstanding volunteer for Widji, serving in many leadership positions including chair of the Finance Committee, chair of the 75th Reunion Committee, chair of

the Annual Campaign Committee and currently is co-chair of the Capital Campaign Committee.

While on the board John was a member of the Finance Committee, serving as the chair for two

“Peter is enthusiastic about Widji and Leaders Club was a good fit for him. He was a leader among the Leaders and eagerly helped out wherever needed,” said Widji Leaders Coordinator Emily Myhre.

Outside of his participation with Widji Leaders, Peter plays guitar, runs track and participates in Mock Trial at his school.

Of his Widji experience, Peter says “nothing quite beats the feeling of climbing up to the top of a mountain, thousands of feet up high, with the wind blowing all around and looking out at all the snowcapped mountains that surround you.” His favorite trail meal is calzones for dinner (and crepes for breakfast) and his favorite camp song is “Life of a Voyageur.” ▼



years. It was while chairing the committee that John felt it should be renamed and called the “Super Fun Oversight Committee” to attract more members and also to emphasize that rather than focusing strictly on finances, this committee took a holistic look at camp. John was also involved in the Annual Campaign and writing the previous Strategic Plan.

As board chair, John was organized, inspirational and focused on preserving the Widji experience for the next generation. John has been involved in the Capital Campaign since its inception and has been integral in its success.

“I’ve known John since he was young—his commitment to Widji has deep roots” said Linda Ramacier. “He has been a driving force in keeping our campaign moving forward.” ▼



Renovation of Caribou Cabin

BY JOE SMITH

Caribou cabin was built by Harold Moe from Grand Marais in 1973. It's our only "hand scribed" full log camper cabin not built by Robert Zimmerman. Initially, it was a cabin only used in the summer.

Located on Nye Hill between the sauna and Nye Cabin, Caribou has been a favorite of campers because of its interesting interior configuration and its porch. Both Nye and Caribou cabins have a wonderful view of the North Arm.



When Molly, my daughter, was first learning the names of the cabins, she was 2 ½. She would tell me that Nye cabin was "your" cabin. Which puzzled me until I figured out she thought I was calling it "my" cabin.

In the early '90s Caribou was "winterized" by insulating the roof and adding electricity for lights. After 15 years of year-round service it became apparent that more work was needed to keep Caribou performing as it should. Two of the main problems: the roof ridge log ran completely through the chimney where it contacted moisture leading to rot, and also the roof was too flat causing shingle failure. The exposed wiring and plug in light bulbs were not to our standards. The windows and doors were old.

After many tours and discussions with Board members the plan became to remove the chimney; replace the old roof with a metal one; put a frame wall with windows where the chimney was (enhancing the view down the North Arm); replace all the windows and doors, replace



wiring and light fixtures; all of which started toward the end of last August with a completion date of early January to accommodate the busy winter schedule.

Many people helped with the renovation of Caribou, especially with tearing down the chimney. There were several Widji staff who put in time running a jack hammer and hauling rock and tearing off shingles long after the novelty of doing such

work had passed. Widji provided most of the demolition labor and Pinckney Construction did most of the building. They should be commended for the quality of work. Big chunks of Caribou were torn out and lots of skill was required to patch logs and walls and I am pleased with the results. Everyone wanted to do good work and it shows. Caribou is now in good shape and will serve to house kids in all seasons for many decades to come.

“ Lots of memories are created through Widji. Some memories are strong for obvious reasons, other memories remain important for more subtle reasons. While I'm working at camp, I try to remember how Widji is a place where kids are going to be creating some of their longest memories and that little things can shape the experience. ”

Capital & Endowment Campaign Volunteers

Jim Alexander
 Roger Andre
 Matt Anfang
 Marty Babcock
 Matt Bailey
 Walt Bailey*
 Drew Barker
 Mark Bixby
 Kurt Bjorklund
 Mike Blandford
 Nate Blumenshine
 Paul Boening
 Phil Bratnober
 Barbara Keenan Bussen
 John Bussey
 Mike Bussey
 Shelley Carpenter
 Bruce Casselton
 Kathy Clock
 Tim Commers
 Pat Costello
 Lucy Cosgrove
 Anne Cowie
 Karen Crossley
 Betsy Currie
 Peter Currie
 Blake Davis
 Carolyn Elstra
 Betsy Fabel*

Jenny Flinn
 Elizabeth Flinsch
 Marjorie Fedyszyn
 Cindy Gardner*
 Jamie Gardner
 Jim Gardner*
 Ed Garvey
 Jeannie Gehrz
 Judy Gehrz
 Lisa Gilliland
 Jeri Glick-Anderson
 Paul Godfrey
 Shawna Hedlund
 Bob Hengelfelt
 Jennifer Hengelfelt
 Tom Hiendlmayr*
 Christy Hlavacek*
 Annie Hobbie
 Sarah Hobbie
 Mark Holloway
 Dave Jerde*
 Sara Johnson
 Louise Jones
 Keelin Kane*
 Bill Kellogg
 David Kilpatrick
 Kas Kinkead
 Mary Lou Wood Lamain
 Blakey Larsen

David Lauth
 Molly Leifeld
 Judith Frost Lewis
 Steve Lewis
 Chip Lindeke
 Anne Lindquist
 Bonnie Lohman
 Bruce Maher
 Kris Maritz*
 Dave Mayer
 Pete Mayer
 Lynne Meyer
 Elizabeth Miller
 Ran Miner
 Dave Mink
 Tim O'Brien
 Joan Ostergren*
 John Patterson*
 Ned Patterson
 Sally Patterson*
 Tom Patterson
 Matt Poppleton
 John Porter
 Melissa Raphan
 Jeff Rick
 Jon Ridge
 Amery Robinson
 Tracy Robinson
 Ginner Ruddy

Jan Rupert
 Richard Samuelson
 Sandra Samuelson
 John Saxhaug
 Caroline Schultz
 Mark Scott
 Matt Seltzer
 John Shepard*
 Nat Shepard
 Emily Shor
 Mary Stoick
 Court Storey
 Emily Sturm
 Barb Swadburg
 Tom Swain
 Anne Hoyt Taff
 Lindsey Thomas
 Nancy Thomson*
 Erin Walsh
 Dan Walsh
 Laura Wellington
 Arlene West
 Phil White
 Skip Wilke
 Keeley Young Dixon

* Capital Campaign Steering Committee members

Lots of memories are created through Widji. Some memories are strong for obvious reasons, other memories remain important for more subtle reasons. While I'm working at camp, I try to remember how Widji is a place where kids are going to be creating some of their longest memories and that little things can shape the experience. Caribou is not only structurally sound, but it will also be a good for making camp memories.

This is one of my memories from the construction last fall... I was on the roof in the early morning. It had rained during the night and the temperature had dropped, so the tarps covering the hole in the roof were frozen and had to be removed so I could start work that day. My hands stung but the sun was rising across the bay, giving appreciated warmth. Then I heard a wild yodel coming directly from the golden glare where the sun was streaming through the pines. I saw a flock of five Sandhill Cranes emerge over the tree tops. They flew west towards me passing only 15 yards over my head, then turned south to continue on their journey, flying down the North Arm, yodeling. ▼



2013 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS				
	SUMMER CAMPERS	ORGANIZATIONAL	SCHOOL-YEAR	TOTAL
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	56	27	246	329
DOLLAR AMOUNTS	\$96,466	\$14,576	\$22,358	\$133,400
TOTAL CAMPERS	603	51	1,553	2,207

In Memoriam

SUE HENGELFELT

BY CAROL DAHLQUIST

Although Widji has a history of multi-generational campers/counselors/board members, few can match the record of Sue Hengelfelt who died of cancer at age 77 on May 4, 2013.



deeply involved with environmental causes and were early members of the Friends of the Boundary Waters.

For years, Sue and Bob hosted bi-annual garage sales benefiting both Camp du Nord

Sue's involvement began in 1950 when her mother, Margaret Proshek, and her older sisters Barbara and Joan signed on to cook at camp. Sue and her sister Teddi joined the others in subsequent summers, as cooks and campers. As a home economics teacher, Sue's mother had the summers off and brought all four of her daughters with her to camp. Sue became an avid camper and when she married Bob Hengelfelt in 1960, she found a partner who matched her own family's enthusiasm for the wilderness experience. Bob, who died in 2012, served on the Widji Board.

The enthusiasm for outdoor adventure has passed on to Sue and Bob's children, Bob Jr., Carole, Jennifer and Tom. All have been Widji campers and three of the four became counselors. The Widji experience continued when Sue and Bob's grandchildren became campers.

Sue and Bob found their own wilderness retreat on the North Arm Road when they bought a cabin once part of the small fishing resort called Kewanena. They also acquired a small island with a cabin on Burntside Lake. Soon after, they became

and Widjiwagan. Sue was ever the calm and gracious hostess at these mega sales while Bob was the go-to guy who thrived on the pressure of truckloads of donated goods arriving at their house along with throngs of eager volunteers.

It was the difference in their personalities that made Sue and Bob such an exceptional team. According to daughter Jennifer, the soft-spoken Sue did not like the spotlight but she had plenty of good ideas which she shared with Bob, who then combined their ideas and presented them in a timely fashion.

Together, Sue and Bob Hengelfelt leave an impressive legacy, not just to Camp Widjiwagan but to all environmental causes. One can only imagine how they would have turned their energy and talents towards the project of preventing sulfide mining in their beloved Northland. Their family cares deeply about the same issues, assuring the legacy continues.

Friends honored Sue with memorial gifts to Widjiwagan's General Endowment Fund.

PAUL AURELIUS was a Widji and St. Croix camper in the late 30s early 40s and that experience lasted a lifetime. He was 89 years old when he left this world on March 17, 2013. Paul enlisted in the Naval Air Corps and was commissioned in the Marine Air Corps. He was a decorated WWII Corsair pilot in squadron VMF-313. After the service, he married Marjorie, returned to the University of Minnesota and then worked in sales for 3M for 35 years.

Paul is survived by his wife, Rev. Marjorie B. Aurelius; daughter Ann; and sons John and David who were also Widji and St. Croix campers. Widjiwagan was one of four organizations that memorials were directed to honor the memory of Paul.

FERN BOMGREN was the grandmother of three Widji alumni, Matthew, Andrew and John Bussey. Those three grandsons have very fond memories of spending special time with Grandma. Fern passed away peacefully on April 10, 2013 at age 93. She was a longtime member of Gustavus Adolphus Church and a charter member of the East Side YMCA. Fern and her husband Roy "Pinky" Bomgren were very active at the Y and lifelong supporters, sharing of their time, talents and treasures with an organization that was very important to both of them.

Fern was preceded in death by Roy and is survived by children Daniel (Barbara) Bomgren, Marcia (Michael) Bussey and Walter (Vickie) Bomgren. Memorials that were received will perpetuate Fern's legacy through the Bussey Family Endowment Fund, benefitting Camps Widjiwagan, du Nord, and St. Croix.

LUCY BROWN was a camper parent and grandparent who valued the impact that Widjiwagan had on her family. Lucy passed away peacefully on June 13, 2013. Lucy enrolled in Officer Candidate Training at Smith College, enlisting in the WAVE's during World War II. She served at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, was honorably discharged in 1945, as a Lt. j.g. She was known for her joyful sense of humor, white tennis shoes, patriotic pride, and front porch flower boxes full of red, white, and blue petunias.

Lucy was preceded in death by her husband Gordon C. Brown and her son Gordon C. Brown, Jr. She is survived by two daughters, Lee Pitman (John) and Linda Harris (Norm), daughter-in-law Sue Brown Tweed, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Memorials were directed to the Gordon C. Brown, Jr. Endowment Fund benefitting Widji campers who would not be able to attend without financial assistance, perpetuating the Brown Family legacy.

(After this writing, daughter Lee Pitman passed away on February 1, 2014. A celebration of Lee's life was held on March 22 at the Dodge Nature Center).

LEN NORDMAN, a Widjiwagan alumni, passed away on September 17, 2013 at the age of 85. He worked as a guide at Widjiwagan for many years beginning in the late 1940s through much of the 1950s. While at Widji, Len met the love of his life, Evie Johnson, who worked in the camp office. Len and Evie were married on September 10, 1949 for 64 wonderful years. Over the years, Len and Evie made many return visits to their beloved Widjiwagan. In the late 1990s he donated his canoe to camp.

Len attended Murray High School and after graduation, he served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during the



Korean War. Len received degrees from Hamline University and the University of Minnesota. He worked as an engineer at Link Belt in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, until 1962 when he worked management at Wenger Corporation in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Len is survived by wife Evie, sons Jon (Gretchen), Dan (Sandy) and three grandchildren.

The Nordmans have many fond memories of Widjiwagan and know the impact that the program has on so many teens. To honor Len's memory, memorials were directed to Widjiwagan for camp scholarships.

Heritage Club member Christina “Tina” Gray Celebrates her 100th Birthday



Christina Gray celebrated her 100th birthday on December 6, 2013, with her seven great grandchildren (and future ‘Y’ campers) shown in the picture. Many family and friends celebrated this special occasion with Tina in Mankato, Minnesota.

The YMCA has always been a special organization for Tina’s family. Her parents, Frank and Laura Nelson started sending their three sons to the ‘Y’ in St. Paul in the early 1900’s. Tina met Edward ‘Ted’ Gray in high school and while Ted went

to Hamline University he worked at the Downtown ‘Y’, located at 475 Cedar Street. In the 1930s, as Physical Director, he took many young men to Camp Widjiwagan on canoe trips. He then became Camp Director of Widji from 1940-1945. Tina remembers those summers at Widji and living in Nye cabin! Ted spent his entire career working for the YMCA organization until he retired. He passed away in 1996. The canoe paddle racks at Widji are a memorial to Ted Gray given by Tina, her two children and four grandchildren.

There were many alumni of Camp Widjiwagan and Camp St. Croix at Tina’s 100th birthday party. In attendance were Tina’s son, Bill, grandson Eric, and great nephew Brandt Wasmund and all three had attended St. Croix as kids. Tina’s daughter, Barb Gray

Wenschlag, was a Widji camper, 1964 Voyageur and a counselor for two summers. Barb’s daughter, Julie Wenschlag, went to Camp St. Croix and Camp Olson as a kid, and after college graduation was a Widji camp nurse for one session and a health assistant for a whole summer. Coming all the way from New Hampshire was Ned Therrien, Tina’s nephew. Ned was a Widji camper, counselor and 1960 Voyageur counselor. Ned’s sister, Jennette Therrien Wasmund, was a Widji camper. Another of Tina’s nephews, Larry Therrien, spent fun times at Camp du Nord with his mother, Margaret Therrien, Tina’s sister. As you can see, there is a lot of Nelson/Gray/Therrien family history connected to the YMCA.

The first endowment fund for Camp Widjiwagan/Camp St. Croix was established more than 50 years ago to honor the memory of Frank and Laura Nelson, Tina’s parents. Frank and Laura never visited Camp Widjiwagan, but the support they helped create for the camp has touched the lives of thousands of teens. The fund was established in 1962 with an investment of a little over \$20,000, and the distribution has amounted thus far to \$290,541.87. Every year, the family never misses an opportunity to honor some family member with an honorarium at Christmas, or any other special occasion. The Nelson’s grandchildren and great grandchildren are committed to seeing the fund grow and perpetuate the family’s legacy. The initial gift keeps on giving, changing young lives by making the Widji Way a possibility for new generations.

We wish Christina Gray many happy returns on her 100th birthday and thank the entire Gray family for their many years of involvement and support of the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities organization, benefiting Camp Widjiwagan and Camp St. Croix. ▼

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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.

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Byron & Connie Starns
Edward Starns
Kathryn Starns
Jennifer Steans, Jim &
Nickolas Kastenholz
Molly Stenovoc
Melissa & Tim Stoddart
Mary & Mark Stoick
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Court Storey & Pamela Neary
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Stacy Suberg & Eric Loukas
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Phillip Rickey
Joanne Sunquist & Tom Pritzker
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Annie & Steven Yetter
Barbara P. Young
Wendy Youngren
Patricia Zurlo

2013 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

The 2013 Annual campaign raised a total of \$193,983 in donations with a goal to achieve \$212,000. Camp Widjiwagan 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 83 summer campers fund their 2013 summer trip. In addition, 246 participants received assistance through the Outdoor Learning program during the fall, winter or spring. This annual campaign also supports staff training and development, repairs and replaces trail equipment, wood canoe maintenance and funds purchasing safety equipment.

The campaign to raise funds for 2013 took place in the fall of 2012 and was chaired by **Bill Kellogg**. **Many thanks to Bill, the following chairs and all of our other volunteers:**

Annual Campaign Team:

General Calling: Shelley Carpenter & Mary Stoick

Board Division: Ned Patterson

Major Gifts: David Kilpatrick & David Lauth

Team Leaders: Matt Bailey, David Kilpatrick, David Lauth, Ned Patterson, Mark Scott, Court Storey & Amy White

A special thanks to the 74 general call night volunteers and to the 39 major gift campaigners who dedicated time and energy to support experiences for youth at Widji. ▼

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

CAMPERS	2013	2012	2011	2010
Summer Session Campers	603	652	642	647
Organizational Group Campers	51	38	22	24
Outdoor Learning Students	1,553	1,535	1,460	1,491
Year Round Total	2,207	2,225	2,124	2,162
CAMPER DAYS	2013	2012	2011	2010
Summer Session Campers	12,186	13,421	13,828	13,176
Organizational Group Campers	355	291	233	174
Outdoor Learning Students	6,178	5,346	5,779	4,584
Year Round Total	18,719	19,058	19,840	17,934

Annual Campaign

Hudson Bay \$5,000-\$9,999

Brown Family Foundation, Inc
John & Ruth Huss
Joyful Women Fund

Advanced Explorer \$2,500-\$4,999

Matthew Bailey & Kris Gendron
Annelie & Shawn Bergerson
Jim & Joan Gardner
Julia & Frank Ladner
Mark & Nancy Mammel
Tom & Sally Patterson
Philip & Katherine Nason Fund
of The Saint Paul Foundation
Anne Pick
R.C. Lilly Foundation
Hugh Schilling, Terhuly
Foundation Inc.
William & Barbara Welke
Robert "Skip" Wilke

Explorer \$1,500-\$2,499

Peter & Sally Anson
Mark Bixby & Keelin Kane
The Herman Family
Dave & Judy Jerde
David Kilpatrick & Julie Schultz
Robert Stubenvoll
Mark Ten Eyck & LaRaye Osborne
John & Amy Tillotson
United Technologies

Wind River \$1,000-\$1,499

Anonymous
Diana & Mark Abbott
Suzanne Brust & John Shepard
Karen & Alan Crossley
James Davis



Eric & Cornelia Dayton
DiSomma Family Foundation
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Maude & Ken Dornfeld
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Nancy & Rolf Engh
Elizabeth Flinn
Edward Foster & Laura Tiffany
Kirsten Tinglum-Friedman &
Richard Friedman
Jamie & Cindy Gardner
Edward & Dana Garvey
Susan & Robert Greenberg
Tom Hiendlmayr & Jan Ormasa
Eleanor Kinkead & Marty Babcock
Judith Frost Lewis &
Stephen Lewis
Margo McCreary & Peter Doughty
Elizabeth & John Miller
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Richard & Nancy Nicholson
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John & Elizabeth Pearson
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John and Sandra Roe Foundation,
a Signature Fund of the
Minneapolis Foundation

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Kate A. Schwartz
Upper Lakes Foods, Inc.
John W. & Jan Wilke

Quetico \$500-\$999

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Blake & Sandy Davis
David & Patricia Drew
Steve Euller & Nancy Roeher
Charles Flinn & Elizabeth Hayden
Robert & Susan Gehrz

Annual Campaign

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Pat Hart
Steve & Betsy Hill
Geoffrey & Linda Hirt
Sarah Hobbie & Jacques Finlay
HP YourCause Foundation
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Amy White & Nick Johnson
Philip & Christina White
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Bighorn \$250-\$499

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Christopher & Sally Brown
Carolyn Brusseau
Christine Buetow
Christine & Robert Bukowski

2013 Leaders: VOYAGEURS:

Emily Myhre – Kazan and Kunwak Rivers
Siri Lindquist – Elk and Thelon Rivers
Gus Ingebretsen – Elk and Thelon Rivers
Patty Dana – Kazan and Kunwak Rivers
Elliot Vaughan – Dubawnt River
Alex Buetow – Kazan River

MOUNTAINEERS:

Jeff Bush – Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Sam Case - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Dana Crawford - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Jessi Rick - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Chris Lauth – Gates of the Arctic National Park

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 Karen Pick & John Pierce
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 Laura Puckett
 Jeff & Mary Ranta

GIFTS IN KIND 2013

Mark Bixby-Medical Advisor
 Eric and Cornelia Dayton-Outdoor clothing and gear
 Peter Currie-Medical Advisor
 Jamie & Cindy Gardner-Scotch Brite Scrubbies for Trail Building
 Mark Holloway-River Expedition training
 Joe and Joanne Kellogg-Canoe
 Alex Kosseff-"AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership" - book
 Whitey and Ginny Luehrs-Seliga Canoe
 Amery Robinson-Medical Advisor
 Rock it Pocket-LaCrosse equipment
 Wellington Management-Steve Wellington-Storage space
 John Wilke-Sigurd Olson poster
 Skip Wilke-iMac Computer and software, Skidder repair

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

Health Professionals:

Jean Bentley
 Rollie Brusseau
 Pat Eid
 Kevin Lagos
 Karen Loewenson
 Erin Omann
 Jeff Peters
 Sharon Sivertsen-Modrijan

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F.R. Bigelow Foundation - Capital and Endowment
Brown Family Foundation Inc - Annual Fund
Climateworks Foundation - Capital
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Disomma Family Foundation - Annual Fund and Capital
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Annual Fund and Capital
John and Ruth Huss Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation-
Annual Fund and Capital
Sam and Dona Jordan Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation -
Annual Fund
Joyful Women Fund - Annual Fund
Martin and Esther Kellogg Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation -
Annual Fund, Capital and Endowment
R.C. Lilly Foundation - Annual Fund and Capital
Lucky Seven Foundation - Annual Fund
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Foundation - Endowment
McKlveen Jones Charitable Fund - Capital
McNeely Foundation - Annual Fund
Meredith Fund of the Women's Foundation - Endowment
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Nicholson Family Foundation, Richard and Nancy Nicholson Fund -
Annual Fund
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United Health Group Foundation - Annual Fund
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Google Matching Gifts Program
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Jeff Rick
Jon Ridge
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