

Badger Tracks – August 2002

Welcome!

With this issue, we welcome our new Section Executive, Kate Mace, and introduce....

Kate's Korner

I am honored and excited to be your new Section Executive for ACA Wisconsin. I look forward to meeting each of you, and learning the details of this Section, with its great traditions and wonderful reputation.

Let me give you a few details of my life in camping. During my youth in Iowa, I attended Camp Fire and church camps, and in my later high school and college years I worked at a special needs Easter Seal camp. I met my husband, was proposed to, and even came within moments of having one of our children at a camp. I've been a camp nurse and a camp director. My kids went to camp in Wisconsin—so although this is the first time I have lived here, our Wisconsin camping experiences have been marvelous.

My introduction to ACA Standards was as a volunteer. A Standards Committee sat at my kitchen table, pounding out standards. I made the pie that helped keep smiles close to the surface. It was at this time I grew to understand the quality and commitment of people in ACA. As a group, I have never known more focused, sincere and dedicated people. Camp people do no waiver from their purpose. Those in ACA want to provide excellence, and want to be challenged and assisted in doing everything they can to provide the very best experience for everyone involved. When parents and camper supporters choose an ACA accredited camp in Wisconsin, they know that they can expect an exceptional level of service and care for their camper.

When I decided that I would like to "go for it" and apply to be your exec, I wrote two goals in

my journal. First, that ACA accredited camps in Wisconsin will have the best assistance and support possible from an executive who is committed to members and to those who use our services. Secondly, that those who provide camping services in Wisconsin but have chosen not to be accredited will be invited, encouraged and ultimately convinced to join our ACA fold. I'm committed to work with you toward these goals.

At this moment, we are putting final touches on our new office. I would like to hear from you. Please contact me at ACAWisconsin@charter.net, 608-663-0051, or 3217 Sandwood Way, Madison, WI, 53713.

Another secret goal of mine is to visit each of the ACA accredited camps in Wisconsin. It's a big state, this will take time, and I expect the number will grow. In the next few years I hope to meet every one of you, learn about your work, and join with you to realize our goal to make camping in Wisconsin the premiere camping experience in the U.S.

Fall Workshop

Camp is winding down and before you know it Fall will be upon us. Mark your calendars for October 3, 2002. The annual Wisconsin and Illinois Sections' Workshop will be held at Salvation Army Camp Wonderland.

The keynote speaker will be Laurie Frank, who will be discussing Camp Community and Leadership during the morning session. In the afternoon, Laurie will lead a session on Leadership, while there will be additional break-out sessions addressing varying camp needs related to community and leadership.

Laurie Frank is a former public school teacher who has worked

in the adventure field for 20 years. Currently, Laurie is the owner/director of GOAL Consulting, working with school districts, camps and non-profit organizations around the country to develop adventure education programs for children and young adults. Her most recent book, *The Caring Classroom: Using Adventure to Create Community in the Classroom and Beyond*, was published in 2001 by Project Adventure.

Laurie also wrote *The Camp Manito-wish (collaborative) Leadership Manual* in 1997. She has also collaborated on two books: *Games (& Other Stuff)* for teachers with Chris Caver in 1999, and *Adventure Education for the Classroom Community* with Ambrose Panico in 2000.

Laurie has been a Certified Trainer with Project Adventure since 1990. She also works with Play Peace, an organization that focuses on bringing children of conflicting cultures together through play. She received the Michael Stratton Practitioner of the Year award from the Association for Experiential Education in 1997.

Details will be mailed to everyone, so be watching your mailbox.

Section Calendar

- Tuesday, September 24
Board Meeting, Timber-lee Christian Center
- Thursday, October 3
IL-WI Fall Workshop, Camp Wonderland
- Thursday, November 18
Annual Meeting, Bethel Church
- Wednesday, December 11
Board Retreat, Place to be announced
- Feb. 19-22, 2003 Natl. Convention, Denver
- Feb. 25-28, 2004 Natl. Convention, Orlando

- April 10-12, 2003 Mid-States Conference
- April 15-17, 2004 Mid-States Conference

We're Happy to Welcome These New Members

Tom Moore, Camp St. Johns Northwestern.

Joe Passineau, UW Stevens Point, Coolege of Natural Resources.

Boyd Hegarty, YMCA Camp Matawa.

Please accept our red-faced aopology for any names we may have missed, and please send any roster changes to Jerry Carmen at jcarman@execpc.com.

Tragedy at Camp Helen Brachman

Camp Helem Brachman, an ACA accredited camp outside of Portage, with a great tradition of service, had an accidental drowning of one of their campers in July, This is a true tragedy for the family and the camp. Director Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer can use your support as the camp faces the challenges ahead.

A Peak Experience!

Don't forget the ACA National Conference is February 19-22, 2003. The Exhibitor Prospectus is available now. If you have suggestions for past or new exhibitors that might be asked to participate, then contact the National Office via e-mail at exhibitors@ACAcamp.org. The program preview information will be available in October. But don't feel like you have to wait to book your hotel room. The Adams Mark-Denver is holding rooms for ACA National Conference attendees at special rates. Call 303-893-333X to make your reservations early.

How About a Trip Down Under?

The 6th International Camping

Congress, *Beneath the Southern Cross*, will be January 5-10, 2003 in Melbourne/Bendigo Australia. For more information, e-mail your Section office at ACAWisconsin@charter.net and we'll send all the info your way!

Care and Feeding of Wood/Canvas Canoes

by J.F. Suffield shared by Georgi Starz

There was a time when all summer camps that provided outdoor experiences to youngsters had wood/canvas canoes. Then around 1950 most camps started to integrate aluminum canoes into their waterfront livery. The attraction fo aluminum was the "no maintenance" factor.

As years went by, most camps had completely switched to a canoe fleet of aluminum, fiberglass and other high-density plastics.

Now there are just a few camps that can boast of having any of the old, dependable, quiet craft in use. Usually they are kept in the waterfront program for nostalgic reasons or elevated to a royal position in the fleet whereby a youngster is rewarded with the opportunity of earning the right to be in a wooden canoe.

The sun and the weather are factors in the deterioration of wood and canvas. The sun's heat and ultraviolet rays promote the bacterial breakdown of wood and cotton fibers, and oxygen evaporates the natural oils added at construction time.

The first job of maintaining a wood canoe is the re-introduction of lost oil to the wood and canvas. Boiled linseed oil meets this need. There are two methods of getting oil into the wood.

The first method is to place the canoe right-side-up in direct sunlight so as to heat up the inside wood. Brush on the oil and let it sit.

The second method is to heat the boiled linseed oil in boiling water by placing an open container in the water. Always remember that the oil is flammable, so the heating of the oil is best done outdoors. Brush the hot oil into the wood, especially on the floor and up inside the ends and gunwales.

Most canoes start to deteriorate on the ends, where the deck pieces meet the bow and stern stems. Most camps store their canoes on racks up-side-down. Any moisture, great or small, trickles down to the pointed ends and promotes an ideal fungus- and rot-growing area with heat and oxygen. To avoid this problem, keep the canoe upright on the rack until it is dry, then turn it over. After a rain, turn the wooden canoe right-side-up to dry. Keeping the inside of the wooden canoe treated with linseed oil is the number one way of being sure the canoes will be ready when your campers need them and will keep maintenance costs down.

J.F. Suffield operates a canoe restoration and repair shop. Many camps use his services. He also will purchase wooden canoes that need reairl and find camps and other good homes for them once they are restored. He can be reached at N11543 Squaw Lake Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501 (715)362-5971.

Sending Information for Badger Tracks?

To have material included in Badger Tracks, please fax it to Jerry Carman at 920-994-8100, mail to 535 Lake Drive, Random Lake, WI 53075, or e-mail to jcarman@execpc.com. If you e-mail, please make it a part of the e-mail, do not send as an attachment.

Your stories of camp, special poems, articles of general interest, etc., are welcome.