



THE KEYLOG



The Camp Nebagamon Alumni Association Newsletter • Fall 2009 No. 40

NEBAGAMON REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

by Alex Gordon

China has a great one. Berlin had its memorably torn down. And now you can add Camp Nebagamon to the list of places synonymous with renowned walls.

This past summer marked the debut of camp's new 50-foot climbing wall. Located on the site occupied by the tennis backboard since the early 1970s (roughly between the Council Fire Ring and the Lower Diamond), the new climbing project was an immediate hit with campers, who once they laid eyes on the wall, couldn't wait to try and make it to the top.



The view from the Range Road as you emerge from the woods.

"From day one, the kids absolutely loved it. It was very popular, beyond anything we could have expected," says Nebagamon co-director Adam Kaplan. "A lot of kids participate in climbing at home, so they took to it right away."

The wall, which is really two 14'-wide-by-50'-tall climbing surfaces, is truly a sight to behold, wowing everyone from longtime staffers to brand new Swampers.

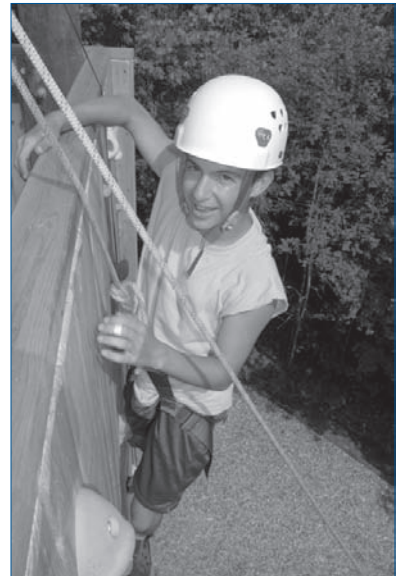
"Everyone who sees it for the first time seems to have the same reaction. They are shocked at just how tall it is. It's really amazing to see how high something 50 feet actually is," Adam says. "After that initial awe, most people are very complimentary about how well the wall fits in with the surrounding area and the camp in general. We were careful to design it so it would meld in well with the entire area."

Adam says he and Steph had been considering adding a climbing project since they purchased camp six years ago, but finally decided the timing was right this past winter.

"At Nebagamon we try not to respond to whatever is the flavor of the week," Adam says. "It's an 81-year-old camp with a rich tradition and history. We don't make a significant change to the program just because it is the hot thing. It has to be something that we think will enrich kids' experiences and will fit with our vision of who we are and what we stand for at Nebagamon."

In April, the camp's caretakers, along with some help from outside contractors, went about first demolishing the tennis backboard (it didn't put up much of a fight), breaking up the asphalt, and clearing the area.

Next, a 12'-by-14' section was assembled inside the Lake Nebagamon Auditorium (the only nearby warm place with high enough ceilings) so head caretaker Andy Mack could paint a giant gold and blue Camp Nebagamon logo on it. The adjacent wall sports two smaller camp logos. The caretakers then spent three long days measuring, marking, drilling, stacking, and clamping before the wall was ready to be assembled.



2009 camper Jonathan Friedman reaches the top.



The two adjacent climbing surfaces.

(continued on page 4)



THE VIEW FROM HERE

by Sally and Nardie Stein

Living in Lake Nebagamon

For five months a year we live in Lake Nebagamon, arriving in May before the lilacs bloom, and leaving in October after the leaves have fallen (and this year after a few hard frosts and snow flurries). In the spring we watch the baby loons, ducks, and goslings as they track their parents, learn to fish, and try to avoid the eagles hoping to devour them. Most summer evenings we watch the muskrats—whose dwelling is adjacent to our dock—swim home with long strands of seaweed in their mouths.

We greatly enjoy kayaking on the lake, hiking, biking, gardening, building, drawing, and visiting with alumni who drop by, sometimes with their sons and grandsons in tow. We also have wonderful visits with our own crew of children and grandchildren, as well as with Sally’s sister Ruth and her children and grandchildren.

We’ve been able to lend a helping hand with some great projects in Lake Nebagamon, having recently helped launch a Wednesday morning Farmer’s Market and a new library. At the Farmer’s Market, residents have access to produce grown in the area as well as arts and crafts made by local artists. Around the corner is the new Lake Nebagamon library. This inviting building houses a free “lending library” (no charge, no checkout), as well as a section staffed weekly by a professional librarian where residents can check out books from the Northern Waters library system. The library also has four computers, wireless access, Internet lessons for seniors, story hours, community gatherings, and more. It is open six days a week and, in addition to the professional librarian, is staffed by volunteers, as well as two part-time paid employees courtesy of a federal grant.

It is obvious to us that the people of Lake Nebagamon appreciate and value Camp Nebagamon. Many have reached out to us personally in recent years, and we like being part of both the camp and village community. Now that we are retired, we enjoy having time to visit and recreate with our many close friends in town, both old and new. Last summer, we were asked to give a reading and signing of our book as part of the village lecture series. We expected a handful of people to attend and were delighted when over 100 showed up, including some wonderful alumni of camp’s food and caretaking staffs.

In October, a friend in St. Louis asked when we were “coming home.” We were not sure how to answer that question! We cherish both of our homes and feel lucky to be able to experience the unique aspects of living in both St. Louis and Lake Nebagamon.



Left: “Big Pete” Peterson and John Nevers greet campers at the train stop in 1958 while their rides to camp look on. For years townspeople ferried boys the last few miles to camp in their own cars. Middle: Muggs visiting with friends at the dedication of the Herb Hollinger museum in 1962. Right: Nardie works the crowd at an open house for camp’s 55th anniversary in 1973. The barefoot girl with dark hair is Maureen McGrath. We worked with Maureen, her sister Sue Enright, and several other people to open the new library in Lake Nebagamon.



FROM THE HELM

by Adam Kaplan and Stephanie Hanson

Fall: Time for Reflection

Fall is always a reflective time in the annual life cycle of a camp director. This is the time of year when we are able to look back at the summer that has just passed and take stock of how things went. Normally the tools we use to do this include our own personal reflections; a formal evaluation from parents and campers; a formal evaluation from each staff member; email correspondence from parents, campers and staff; and, finally, phone calls that come in throughout the fall. All of these sources of information, combined together, give us a really good picture of what the summer was like so that we can both build upon our strengths and successes, and work to improve areas that seem to need attention.

This year is different. We have a resource at our disposal that we have never had before in our efforts to get a good sense of what went on at camp last summer. In 2009, our elder son Joshua spent his very first summer as a camper. Josh was a four-week camper in the cabin of Swamper 2... just like his father was in 1977. (OK, yes, a tiny bit of nepotism may have been involved in ensuring that Josh wound up in my old cabin... but I promise, that is where the favoritism ended!)

As a business owner, I have been presented with a potential gold mine of unfiltered and unbiased experiences from which to learn valuable lessons about how to improve Nebagamom. So I have spent the last two months debriefing Joshua about the subtle nuances of camp life that need to be addressed in our programmatic scheme.

I have learned such valuable nuggets as what is the best way to eat a Nebagamuffin for breakfast, which teams have the best cheers on Paul Bunyan Day, which dock provides the best views for the 4th of July fireworks, what is the best morning song, what is the best way to clear out a tent of mosquitoes on a cabin trip, and, of course, how to get the most bang for your buck at the Dairy Queen!

Sure, these pearls of wisdom probably are not really going to help me improve the camp experience too much for the kids, but, I can tell you this, these discussions with my son sure have improved MY camp experience. Those of you who have ever had a son at camp know exactly what I am talking about. One of the most special experiences that I, as a father, have ever had has been to hear about the Nebagamom experience through the eyes and words of my son.

NEBAGA-HECK

Can you figure out where the heck the photo below was taken? The answer is on page 4.

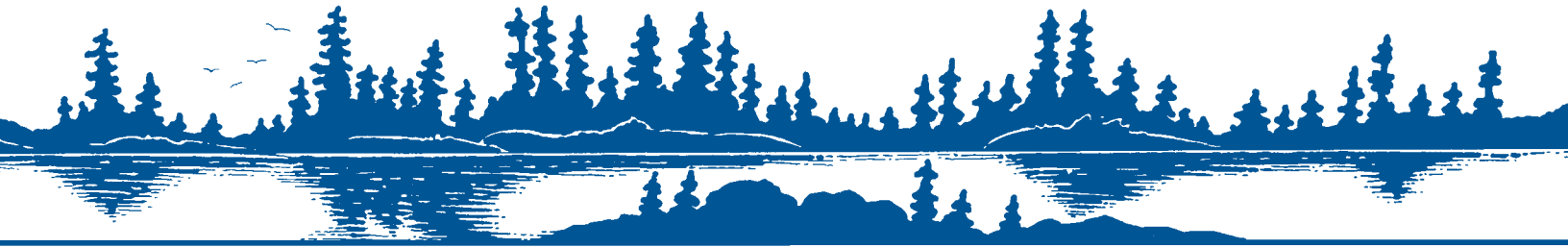
MAN'S LAND



Fall 2009. The Kaplan-Hanson family on the back deck of their new home in Boise, Idaho: Josie, Adam, Stephanie, Josh, and Ben.

I have listened to Josh talk about the fun of Cruiser Days, swimming in Lake Nebagamom, how to construct the best twig hut during Sunday Services, and the emotional impact of looking at the stars and singing All Night, All Day with his 350 brothers as the fire blazes at the Council Fire Ring on a Sunday night. Sharing these experiences has been as much of a bonding moment with my son as I think I will ever have.

So, from this new source of evaluating the camp experience, I have formulated: *no* new marketing plans, *no* new program necessities, and *no* new counselor training items. All that came from this debriefing was the deepening of the connection between father and son... and what could possibly be more valuable than that?



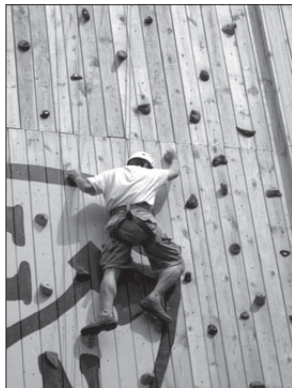
Climbing Wall (continued from cover)

While the wall itself is physically impressive, credit for the success of the program belongs to the staff. To run the project, Adam turned to Michael Bagley, an experienced climber from South Range, WI, who has scaled both Mt. Rainier and Mt. McKinley. “He set the tone from day one. He was always really positive and enthusiastic,” Adam says of Michael. “He worked hard to create an intelligent and exciting program. We didn’t want kids to come to the project just once, reach the top, and never attend climbing again. We wanted this to be the kind of thing where kids would come all summer to do different things. Michael was a big part of making it a success.



Looking down at camper Quincy Hirt from the top of the wall.

“The staff was great about giving the kids all kinds of recognition. Climbing in general is a great fit because it allows kids to take safe risks and set their own individual goals. The campers really get to challenge themselves on an individual level, pushing themselves both mentally and physically. The staff was committed to helping campers achieve those goals, coaching them up the wall while focusing on safety. Michael and his staff made sure that when kids met their goals, be it getting to the top or tackling the difficult route, they got the recognition they deserved.”



Adam Kaplan on the way to the top of the wall during Family Camp.

Don’t take Adam’s word for it though. “I thought it was fun. I was really happy when I made it to the top that first time,” says second-year camper Ethan Winters, a Highland Park, IL resident who spent last summer in Logger 1. “I really liked that there were different challenges on the wall and that it was really tall.”

Beyond straight climbing, Michael and his staff came up with lots of creative ways to use the wall for Special Interest and Wannado periods, such as playing games of capture the flag

NEBAGA-CHECK



If you thought the picture on page 3 was the sign on “NO MAN’S LAND,” you would have been close but wrong! This was a tricky one, especially if you haven’t been to camp recently. The sign pictured above has been to the left of the door on the caretakers’ workshop since the late 1990s.

The workshop was recently expanded. In the spring Keylog, we’ll tell you more about how the newly enlarged and beautifully outfitted workshop is changing how caretakers extraordinaire Andy Mack, Joe Crain, and Rueban Risley maintain the camp grounds, equipment, and facilities. (Yes, the axes have been rehung since the photo below was taken.)



and keep-away. “It was never strictly about plain old climbing up and climbing down,” says Adam, “Michael worked hard to always make it new and interesting.”

As for the future, Adam says that once Nebagamon has developed a cadre of competent climbers, he will be looking to add climbing components to the tripping program.

Given how quickly campers took to climbing in the project’s first summer, it shouldn’t be long before Nebagamon kids are out there on the cliffs of Minnesota’s North Shore scaling yet more new heights.



FAMILY CAMP 2009



Alumni at 2009 Family Camp. Back row: Brad Herzog, Dan Sherman, Max Sherman, Steve Schaumberger, Mike Polisner, Steve Apter, Euan Kerr, Alex Gordon. Middle row: Andy Rolfe, Andy Aronson, Bob Sher, Tom Shapira, Bob Striker, Mike Aronoff, Charlie Barrows, Jake Kessler, Bud Herzog, Jane Stein Kerr, Allen Bennett. Front row: Ned Montag, Jim Woldenberg, Andy Shapin, Larry Rivkin, Nardie Stein, Sally Lorber Stein, Adam Kaplan, Bruce Rogan, Tony Blumberg, Bill Hensel, Dick Meyerhardt, Jaime Hensel, John Altshool. Not pictured: Alan Blumberg, Chad Goldenberg, Ken Kanter, Andy Mack, Jon Rogan, Amy Rusch, and Rand Shapiro.

KEEPING THE FIRES BURNING

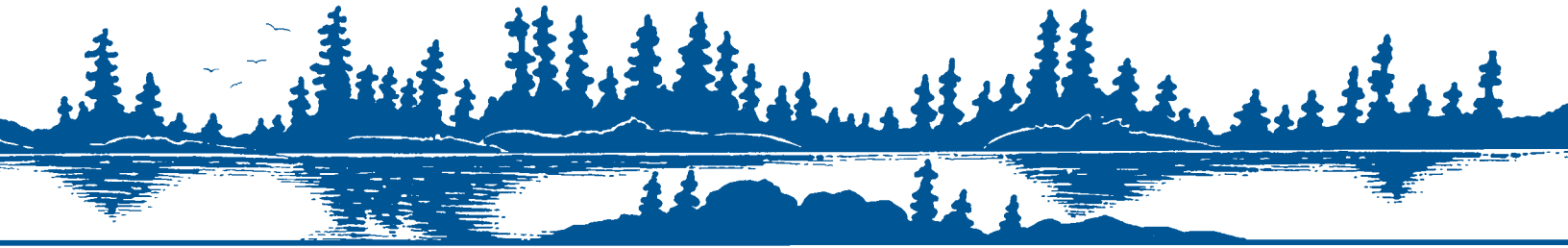
A History and Memoir of Camp Nebagamon

By Nardie and Sally Lorber Stein

This wonderful book, with over 340 pages and 250 photographs, is a great collection of stories, anecdotes, and facts for friends of Camp Nebagamon and anyone who enjoys a good read. It makes a great gift.

Books are available by accessing www.campnebagamonbook.com, by contacting Left Bank Books in St. Louis at 314-367-6731 or online at www.left-bank.com (search "Nebagamon"), or at the camp office next summer.





NEWS OF THE CAMP FAMILY

Please send us news about yourself and other alumni. Send news in the mail, via email (alumni@campnebagamon.com), OR by using the CN website at www.campnebagamon.com (click **FOR THE CAMP FAMILY** and then **Update Your Alumni Info**).

1930s and 1940s

Jed Dreifus (Memphis) was honored in the *Commercial Appeal* on the 40th anniversary of his co-founding of the Memphis Rotary Prep Program, a program that helps high school students from Memphis city schools get into summer prep schools... **Henry Moyer** (Youngstown/New York) is in the insurance business. He recently reunited with former cabinmate **Joe Hirschhorn** (Cincinnati) after 65 years... **Ted Silberstein** (Cincinnati) is pursuing an M.A. in Art History from the University of Cincinnati.

1950s

Eric Aschaffenburg (New Orleans/Gulfport, MS), through his involvement as Executive Director of the Humane Society of South Mississippi, spends time walking his 16 rescue dogs at his “hurricane home” in Asheville, NC... **Henry Bauer, Jr.** (Atlanta) serves as a Special Olympics coach... **Richard Bernstein** (Highland Park, IL/Dallas) serves on the Jewish Family Service board... **Herb Behrstock** (Glencoe, IL/San Francisco) has been President of the East Bay United Nations Association for four years. Herb organizes educational programs in the East Bay area to raise community awareness about the achievements and the unique potential of the UN.



1951 Logger 5. Back row: George Seyvet, Tom Kirchheimer, Jack Gable, Mike Samuels. Front row: Phil Marcuse, Mike Metzger, Steve Chesler, Jimmy Livingston, unknown, Don Spero.



1943 Axeman 2. Back row: Joe Hirschhorn, Hal Negbaur, unknown, Paul Lux. Front row: Jim Reiger, Bob Stern, Henry Moyer. Standing: Dick Downing.

Herb has led many successful programs addressing climate change and global health issues such as poverty, starvation, and preventable deaths. Herb previously spent 31 years in the United Nations Development Program, working mostly in developing countries as the UN Representative... **Charles Blosten** (Highland Park, IL/Littleton, CO) is the city manager of Littleton, where he has been employed for 40 years... **Gene Dattel** (Ruleville, MS/New York) recently published his book *Cotton and Race in the Making of America: The Human Costs of Economic Power*, which follows the themes of cotton, slavery, and racial discrimination through America’s history. The book has received endorsements from prominent historians, as well as from Morgan Freeman, who states that the book “masterfully captures American history and its painful legacy”... **Fred Fehheimer** (Detroit/Bloomfield Village, MI) does pro-bono legal work for The Nature Conservancy and Habitat for Humanity... **Richard Ransohoff** (Cincinnati/Shaker Heights, OH) was one of five health professionals inducted this year into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s Volunteer Hall of Fame. A doctor at the Cleveland Clinic, he leads the Neuroinflammation Research Center of the Lerner Research Institute and serves at the Mellen Center for MS Treatment and Research... **Don Spero** (Glencoe, IL/Bethesda, MD) attended the Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and received an honorary medal. He also presented the sculling medals to the competitors.



1963 Axeman 6. Back row: John Erickson, Joel Salon, David Rosen, Richard Slosburg, Steve Dolgin, Richard Kohn, Jim Kiersky. Front row: John Wasserman, Bob Lenobel, Bill Eastman, Harry Glasspiegel, Fred Berger.

1960s

Hank Crane (Denver/Corrales, NM) is the incoming president of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico... **Bob Elisberg** (Glencoe, IL/Los Angeles) posted an article this past spring about “Thanks for the Pines” on *The Huffington Post*, followed a few months later by an article reflecting his deep connection to Camp Nebagamon. He received responses from alumni all over the country, many of whom he did not even know. Bob has been a commentator and contributor to such publications as the *Los Angeles Times*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, C/NET and E! Online, and served on the editorial board for the Writers Guild of America... **Clay Frohman** (Glencoe, IL) was a screenwriter for the movie “Defiance” which was released last winter. “Defiance” tells the story of Jewish brothers in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe... **Syd Lerner** (Memphis) is Executive Director of the Greater Memphis Greenline. The organization is converting an abandoned rail strip into a walking and biking trail that will connect Midtown Memphis to Shelby Farms Park, the largest urban park in the country... Colonel **James Pritzker** (Chicago) received an Antarctic Service Medal by the National Science Foundation at the Field Museum of Chicago, along with other members of the Tawani Foundation, for the Tawani 2008 International Antarctic Expedition. The ceremony also opened the Robert A. Pritzker Center for Meteoritics and Polar Studies at the Field Museum... **Roger Rosenthal** (Cincinnati) volunteers for special needs children and adults and also for the

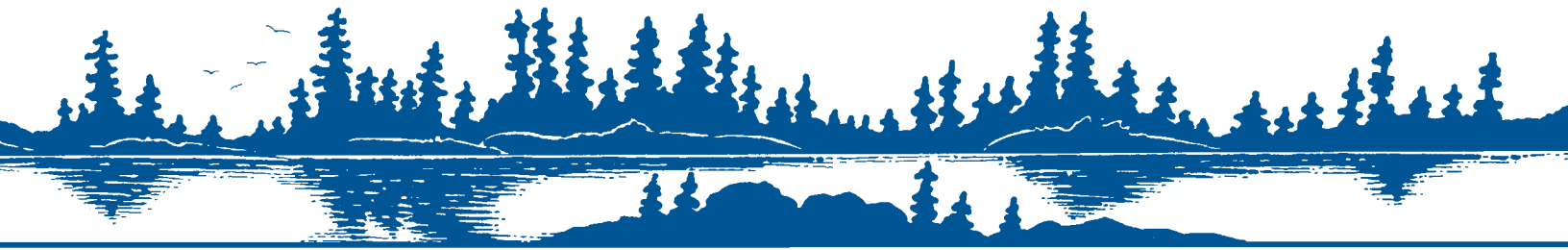
Alzheimers Association... **Steve Turner** (St. Louis) is the founder and CEO of Creative Printing Services, a firm that maximizes the impact of printed materials, from brochures to books. He recently guided the Steins through the process of designing and printing their book, *Keeping the Fires Burning: A History and Memoir of Camp Nebagamon*... **Sue “Frieda” Weisner** (Superior, WI/Englewood, FL) recently retired after serving as a dispatcher with the police, fire, and ambulance departments. In 1969, Frieda was the first woman to serve on the program staff at camp.

1970s

On Halloween of this year, **Tony Blumberg** (Highland Park, IL) presided over the marriage of his lifelong friend and cabinmate **Adam Bezark** (Chicago/Los Angeles) to Kristen Simental. Tony qualified to perform the ceremony thanks to his online registration as a Minister of the Universal Life Church. Tony dressed in the uniform worn by the captain in the movie *Titanic*, while Adam and Kristen wore Victorian costumes. Adam’s son **John Bezark** (03-06) was best man... **Jon Desenberg** (Detroit/Washington, DC) is Policy Director at The Performance Institute, a government think tank... **Roger Greenbaum** (South Orange, NJ/Sebastopol, CA) has written a two-act play about a clash between church and state in 1980s Poland. Titled *The Realists*, it was recently selected for a new play-reading series at The Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond, CA (near San Francisco)... **John Kalishman** (St. Louis) is a managing director of Harcourt Capital Management LLC, an investment advisory firm. He is also vice president of the St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council and just received its Emerging Leader Award...



1977: Back row: Adam Bezark, Denise Glonek. Front row: Carol Hall, Tony Blumberg, Dana Gustafson Regan.



1972 Pow Wow Day: Jim Mendelsohn, Gary Friedman, Carl Fawcett, Guy Sachs, Ken Brown.

Bob Nefsky (Lincoln, NE) is a board member of the Nebraska Arts Council... **Andy Rolfe** (Deerfield, IL/Evanston, IL) is teaching a management consulting class at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University... **Laurel Starstead Koehler** (Superior, WI) is a representative for Recycled Paper Greetings, a manufacturer of humorous cards... **Mark Wittcoff** (St. Louis/Westlake Village, CA) is Chief Operating Officer of SB Management Corporation, a commercial real estate company. He also serves as a board member of the Real Estate Division of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles and coaches flag football... **Jim Woldenberg** (Highland Park, IL) serves on the board of the ACT Charter School in West Garfield Park, Chicago.

1980s

Robert Behrendt (Dallas) is practicing law at Kilgore & Kilgore in Dallas and Austin, TX, where he focuses on employment litigation... **Mark Benveniste** (Atlanta/Dunwoody, GA) is Vice President of Operations and Technology at On the Go Hosiery in Atlanta... **Andy Cohen** (St. Louis/New York) is Bravo's Senior Vice President of Original Programming and Development, responsible for overseeing the network's current development and production slate as well as over two dozen shows. Besides posting a daily blog, Andy hosts "Watch What Happens," BravoTV.com's first live-streaming online program... **Tom Cohen** (St. Louis/Washington, DC) is a news editor for the CNN Wire, a running log of the latest news from CNN World Headquarters... **Brian Goldman** (Raleigh, NC) organized a youth swim team this

IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW

Oliver Williamson, recent co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, is originally from Superior and has had a cabin on Lake Nebagamon for many years. He returns to his cabin every summer for a working vacation. His four children Tami (79-81), Karen (80-81), Dean (84), and Oliver (84) were Camp Nebagamon staff members.

past summer for 80 kids ages 4-18... **Rob Kutner** (Atlanta/Beverly Hills, CA) is writing for the new Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien... **Michael Levick** (Atlanta/Chicago) is a real estate lawyer with the Levick Legal Group... **Ming "M.J." Lowe** (Fort Madison, IA/Washington, DC) is a senior program advisor for the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars... **Jason Madison** (Dodge Center, MN/Minneapolis) works at Medtox Laboratories in New Brighton, MN as an account manager. He also recently helped teach his son's Minnesota Firearm Safety Hunting course, using many of the techniques he learned from his late father **Dale Madison** at the CN riflery range... **Ryan Marks** (Chicago/Austin, TX) has been named head basketball coach at the University of Texas-Pan American. At his first press conference as the new coach, Ryan quoted "There's a Destiny" ... **Jeff Mellow** (Plano, TX/Montclair, NJ) is a professor of criminal justice at John Jay College in New York City... **Jon Ringel** (Memphis/Atlanta) works for the *Daily Report*, part of a national chain of papers that focus on the legal industry...



1989 Canoeing Big Trip #2: Steve Fisher, Brian Monroe, Jeff Eberhard, Bob Steinback, Jamie Altholz, Jon Star.



1997 Canoe Big Trip C: Front row: Matt Bernstein, Ben Edmunds, Michael Goldberg, Ben Levi. Back row: Jon Fawcett, Sam Brown, Nate Lenzini, Ken Hammond, Tim Martin.

Bob Striker (Cincinnati/Minneapolis) has opened his own firm, Striker Business Law, specializing in real estate energy development... **Maria Weyers Lockwood** (Maple, WI/Superior, WI) is a reporter for the *Superior Telegram*.

1990s

Jono Adelman (Milwaukee, WI/Southbury, CT) works as Business Development Manager for the Adelman Travel Group... **Stephen Barrows** (Hopkins, MN/Minneapolis) married Erin Fautchy (Madison, WI) and is a lawyer at Leonard, Street and Deinard... **Peter Blair** (Memphis/Seattle) is the Early Childhood Education Director for the Stroum Jewish Community Center on Mercer Island, WA... **Sam Brown** (Minnetonka, MN/Washington, DC) is Finance Director of the Democratic National Committee. He married his wife Lacey last summer in the company of many camp friends... **Emily Cole-Kelly** (Shaker Heights, OH/New York) married Nathan Appfel (Seattle) and is the Director of Events for the Battery Park Conservancy... **Jonathan Goldstein** (Ladue, MO/Brookline, MA) married Holly Markovitz (Los Angeles)... **Jesse Gray** (Deerfield, IL/Chicago) is an investment banker at Credit Suisse... **Francisco Ibanez** (Mexico City) is a lawyer in Mexico City and likes to spend his free time golfing... **Adam Lerner** (Memphis/Vancouver, BC) works for the Kaldor design firm.



1997 Dave Knoepfle and Randy Needlman.

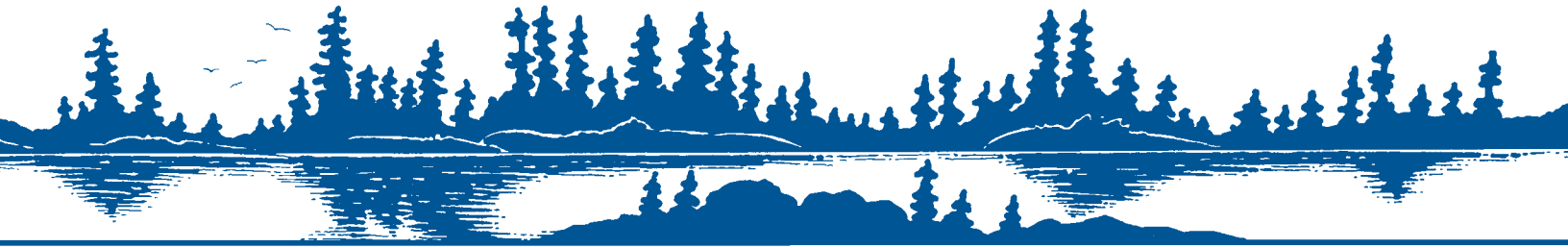
2000s

Nate Ahlberg (Bennett, WI) went to the Johnson Space Center with three other teachers from the Solon Springs School District to fly in NASA's vomit comet. They conducted an experiment that involved shooting a toy crossbow at a target during zero G's... **Joel Aronoff** (Louisville/Denver) is a Clinical Content Analyst for McKesson Medical Provider Technologies... **Levi Dexel** (Farmington, NM/Durham, NC) teaches physical education and is the Outdoor Adventure Education Coordinator at Duke University. He is responsible for the climbing wall, kayak clinics, and an up-and-coming tripping program... **Nate Engle** (Duluth/Maple Grove, MN) married Kari Stellmaker (Minneapolis)... **Jonathan May** (Germantown, TN/Memphis) married Michele Garr (Nashville)... **Andrew Roberts** (Northampton, MA) published his book of poetry, *Something Has to Happen Next*... **Jeff Schram** (Boston/Atlanta) received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Emory University for his work with children with Down's Syndrome and autism in Atlanta.

OUR PRODUCTIVE ALUMNI

We want to congratulate the following alumni and welcome their new children to the camp family:

Jenna and **Drew Barnett** (Highland Park, IL/Chicago 89-94), Reese... **Zeza Dumont** (Brisbane, Australia 07) and **Jon Fawcett** (Somerset, England/Brisbane, Australia 91-92, 94, 96-00, 02, 07), Francisco... Osnat and **Greg Gafni-Pappas** (Franklin, MI/Allentown, PA 91-94, 02-03), Aya... Sabina and **David Garfinkel** (St. Louis 75-78, 82-83), Bennett and Andrew... Julie and **Alex Gordon** (Northbrook, IL/Highland Park, IL 78-83, 87-88, 90-91), Samantha Ruth... Laura and **Allen Graber** (Memphis 79-81), Eloise Roslyn... Regina and **Francisco Ibanez** (Mexico City 84-86, 92), Maria... Laura Dembo and **Andy Kaplan** (St. Louis/Chicago 80-86, 92), Celeste Amelia... Amanda Gordon and **Ben Kornblet** (St. Louis/Silver Spring, MD 86-89, 92-95, 97), Chase Matthew... Shalini and **Brad Kovach** (St. Louis/Chesterfield, MO 82-87, 89, 99), Alissa... Amy and **Andy Mack** (Cincinnati/Washington, DC 73-78, 80), Benjamin... Deb Weisshaar and **Jon Ringel** (Memphis/Atlanta 78-83, 85), Lucy Jessica... Heather and **Brad Rosenblatt** (Edina, MN/Highland Park, IL 84-90, 92), Wyatt Chase... Jonathan Toback and **Keri Rosenbloom** (Louisville/Chicago 91-94, 99-01), Tanner Nathan... Aubree and **Eric Scolnick** (Scarsdale, NY/Issaquah, WA 84-88, 92-94), Vienna... Wade Willman and **Lisa (Kelley) Willman** (Andover, MN/Hillman, MN 89-90, 93-02), Max.



THE BIG CHILL: PAUL BUNYAN, LOGGER LOVER

by David Michel

Throughout my years at Nebagamon (1975-80), I do not remember singing the Logger Lover often. The lost logger did not hold as exalted a place as John Johnson (“Yon Yohnson”) or Mr. Zip Zip Zip. His battle with the frozen north paled in comparison to Lillian Russell’s fight with those pesky oysterettes or the determination of a certain small spider that crawled up the spout again and again. When we did sing the Logger Lover, however, it had a familiar ring.

All these years later, I realize that I was first introduced to this song by my late father, Arthur “Corky” Michel, who was at Nebagamon from 1952-56. A folk music aficionado, my dad played all sorts of music that I considered odd. I must have heard this song along with the chain gang songs, Irish ballads, and acoustic pre-hippie warblings in Harvard Square that played in the background of my childhood.

My consciousness of the song returned after my son Dan’s Swamper year. He reported that Logger Lover is now a camp favorite. Dan and I have sung the song together at two summers of Family Camp. As we sang it though, something seemed missing. I remembered a verse about the logger beating his whiskers in with a hammer and “biting them off inside” that was not part of the Nebagamon version. Intrigued, I did a little research.



This still photo is from the 1963 animated short “The Frozen Logger.” It shows our hapless logger upon realizing that stirring coffee with his thumb has sparked sentimental memories for his 40-year-old waitress.

I was initially hampered by the simple fact that I was looking for the wrong name. The song was originally titled “The Frozen Logger.” Despite my sense that it must have emerged from 19th Century logging camps, the song was written in 1928 by author, hobo-poet, mule-skinner, and logging camp habitué James Stevens (1892–1971). It was first published in “Bunk Shanty Ballads and Tales” in 1949. Stevens is most noted for his popularization of Paul Bunyan. He wrote nine books and more than 250 stories and magazine articles about Paul. Often considered a protector of the Northwest forest industries, Stevens retired in 1957 as public relations director for the West Coast Lumberman’s Association.

When the Weavers recorded “The Frozen Logger” in 1951, it rocketed to the top of the charts, at least in western Washington State. *Time Magazine’s* late December review that year positively glowed, “Out in the Northwest logging country... the jukeboxes were booming last week with a new song that seemed ground out on Paul Bunyan’s grindstone—the one that was so big that every time it turned three times it was payday again.”

In the ensuing years, several folk artists covered the song. “Frozen Logger” was recorded by Odetta (1954), Cisco Houston (1954), Jimmie Rogers (1960), The Weavers (again in 1963) and others. Although the Grateful Dead never recorded the song, Bob Weir sang it occasionally at concerts during equipment changes as a novelty, though he often forgot many of the lyrics and rarely finished the song.

There are several performances of the song on YouTube, including an animated short film produced by Czechoslovakian film directors George Berdecka and Gene Deitch in 1963. In this version, a voluptuous waitress rather aggressively pursues a replacement for her lost beau.

How the Logger Lover arrived at Camp Nebagamon is a mystery. Nardie Stein recalls it coming some time in the early 1960s. It was popular enough by 1966 to be included in the “new” songbook, but no one I spoke with remembers who brought the song to camp. Was it Alan Goldman? Was it Andy Rinde? Was it Clair Houston?

Perhaps, like the grave of Paul Bunyan as a man, the Nebagamon history of the Logger Lover will forever remain... unknown.



Compare the original with camp's rendition. As is often true with folk songs, the lyrics vary slightly from version to version.

Warning: Reader discretion advised. The song may linger on your mind for days (if not longer).

The Frozen Logger

as originally written by James Stevens.....and from the 1966 Camp Nebagamom Songbook

AS I SAT DOWN ONE EVENING
WITHIN A SMALL CAFE
A FORTY YEAR OLD WAITRESS
TO ME THESE WORDS DID SAY

I SEE THAT YOU'RE A LOGGER
AND NOT JUST A COMMON BUM
'CAUSE NOBODY BUT A LOGGER
STIRS HIS COFFEE WITH HIS THUMB

MY LOVER WAS A LOGGER
THERE'S NONE LIKE HIM TODAY
IF YOU'D POUR WHISKEY ON HIM
HE'D EAT A BALE OF HAY

HE NEVER SHAVED HIS WHISKERS
FROM OFF HIS HORNY HIDE
HE'D DRIVE THEM IN WITH A HAMMER
AND BITE THEM OFF INSIDE

MY LOVER CAME TO SEE ME
UPON ONE FREEZING DAY
HE HELD ME IN A FOND EMBRACE
WHICH BROKE THREE VERTEBRAE

HE KISSED ME WHEN WE PARTED
SO HARD HE BROKE MY JAW
I COULD NOT SPEAK TO TELL HIM
HE FORGOT HIS MACKINAW

I SAW MY LOVER LEAVING
SAUNTERING THROUGH THE SNOW
GOING GAILY HOMEWARD
AT FORTY-EIGHT BELOW

THE WEATHER IT TRIED TO FREEZE HIM
IT TRIED ITS LEVEL BEST
AT A HUNDRED DEGREES BELOW ZERO
HE BUTTONED UP HIS VEST

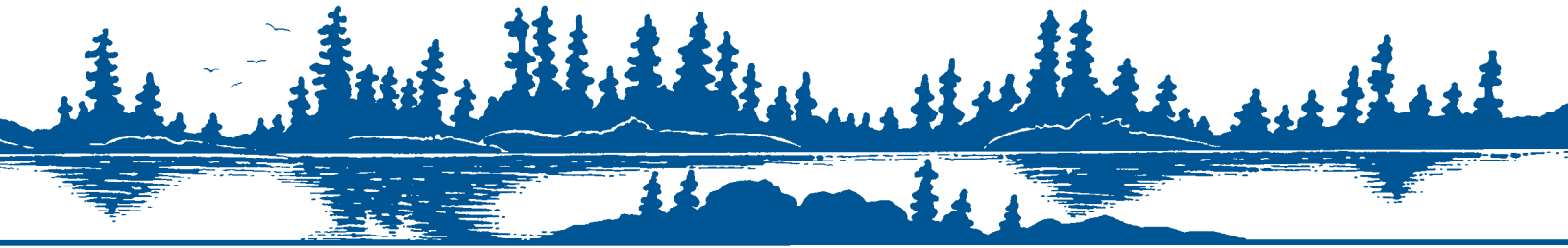
IT FROZE CLEAR THROUGH TO CHINA
IT FROZE THE STARS ABOVE
AT A THOUSAND DEGREES BELOW ZERO
IT FROZE MY LOGGER LOVE

THEY TRIED IN VAIN TO THAW HIM
AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME, SIR
THEY MADE HIM INTO AXE BLADES
TO CHOP THE DOUGLAS FIR

AND SO I LOST MY LOVER
TO THIS CAFE I COME
AND HERE I WAIT TILL SOMEONE
STIRS HIS COFFEE WITH HIS THUMB.

1. AS I SAT DOWN ONE EVENING,
'T WAS IN A SMALL CAFE;
A FORTY YEAR OLD WAITRESS
TO ME THESE WORDS DID SAY:
2. I SEE YOU ARE A LOGGER,
AND NOT A COMMON BUM,
FOR NO ONE BUT A LOGGER
STIRS COFFEE WITH HIS THUMB.
3. I HAD A LOGGER LOVER,
THERE'S NONE LIKE HIM TODAY.
IF YOU POURED WHISKEY ON IT,
HE'D EAT A BALE OF HAY.
4. MY LOGGER CAME TO SEE ME,
'T WAS ON A WINTER'S DAY
HE HELD ME IN A FOND EMBRACE
THAT BROKE THREE VERTEBRAE.
5. HE KISSED ME WHEN WE PARTED,
SO HARD IT BROKE MY JAW;
I COULDN'T SPEAK TO TELL HIM
HE FORGOT HIS MACKINAW.
6. I SAW MY LOGGER LOVER
GO STRIDIN' THROUGH THE SNOW,
A-GOIN' GAILY HOMEWARD
AT FORTY-EIGHT BELOW.
7. THE WEATHER TRIED TO FREEZE HIM
IT TRIED ITS LEVEL BEST;
AT A HUNDRED DEGREES BELOW ZERO,
HE BUTTONED UP HIS VEST.
8. IT FROZE CLEAR DOWN TO CHINA,
IT FROZE TO THE STARS ABOVE;
AT A THOUSAND DEGREES BELOW ZERO,
IT FROZE MY LOGGER LOVE.
9. THEY TRIED IN VAIN TO THAW HIM
AND IF YOU BELIEVE IT, SIR,
THEY MADE HIM INTO AXE BLADES
TO CUT THE DOUGLAS FIR.
10. AND ME I LOST MY LOGGER,
AND TO THIS CAFE I'VE COME,
AND IT'S HERE I WAIT FOR SOMEONE
TO STIR COFFEE WITH HIS THUMB.

Humming? Remember, you were warned.



WE ARE SAD TO REPORT THE DEATHS OF



Jack Orchard (St. Louis, 77-79)
Buck Ullmann (Highland Park, IL, 34-35)
Eric Wurtzenfeld (Risskov, Denmark, 71-73)



THE

KEYLOG



The Camp Nebagamon Alumni Association Newsletter

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