

NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

A Primitive Camp for Boys Ages 10-14
www.nightaglewilderness.com

Fall, 2024 - 2025 (802) 855-8661
Facebook.com/nightaglewilderness

From the Director

This past Tuesday morning at 10:00, I met with Steven Hanna, Andrew Sampsell, and Josh Carvajal at camp. All work in the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Steven and Andrew are dam safety engineers with the Dam Safety Program and Josh is a river management engineer with the Watershed Management Division.

We left our vehicles at the front gate and enjoyed the sunny 60 degree weather as we walked down to the washout at the first lake. There we looked at the damage left by the torrential rains of the summer of 2023, and I began asking questions about possible repairs.

We spent about an hour talking about everything from Vermont state law to replacement dams, bridges, and culverts. The bottom line is that because the dam was breached and there is a small stream running through it, the dam cannot be rebuilt mainly because the current conditions do not allow fish and sediment transport. There is a possibility that we could meet that criteria in the future, but to us the future is now.

So that leaves us with two possibilities: 1) Insert a properly sized, squashed metal culvert that meets the above criteria, or 2) Build a timber bridge across the breached area. In either case the road would be lowered a bit leaving a swimming area where our original swimming area was (the deepest part of the lake). From that point, the water would get shallower and eventually revert to a wetland. Ecologically, that is pretty cool!

If we want to pursue rebuilding the dam, that is a possibility, but only after an engineer visits the site, draws up a design, and submits it to Vermont for approval. That would probably take two or three years, maybe more in Night Eagle time.

However, it's my understanding that we don't need an engineer to build a road with a culvert or bridge, but we do need one in order to replace the dam. If we get started now row, I've been told by the state that a culvert or bridge could be in place by the time camp opens in July.

I like the idea of having the sweat lodge at the first lake making it a more sacred place and swimming and canoeing would take place at the upper lake.

Let me know what you think!

Night Eagle's 25th Anniversary



Fisher Cares show *Eagle Dance* that he can still blow a conch.

What a great weekend for an anniversary! A few early birds began arriving on Thursday and Friday with everyone else appearing on Saturday morning.

As people arrived on Saturday, much of the morning was taken up talking about old times, distributing anniversary t-shirts, looking at photographs from summers gone by, signing the anniversary banner, and just settling in.

Late morning saw a group or two go out exploring and another group break out the hawks and start learning how to "throw dem hawks."



Former staff gather around the photo albums and reminisce

After lunch things settled down a bit and just hung out relaxing until the conch called everyone together at the food shelter to find out what has been resting in our time capsule for the past 25 years.

Arctic Arrow opened the box and began pulling out the treasures: 5 photos taped together giving a 180 degree view of the entrance of camp, a few photos of Snowy Owl (age 6) and Little Bear (age 3), one photo of four of us raising the first wall of the gatehouse, paper albums made by the boys.

Snowy Owl's goal was to "get all the Thomas Tank engines I want." His dream vacation — ". . . to go to the place where they make road Runner cartoons."

Little Bear's goal was to "Make a castle," and his dream vacation — ". . .to go to Texas."



Ed and Trudy enjoy some anniversary cake

This coming summer everyone there will be able to add his name and camp dates to the anniversary banner. We will also decide what we want to include in the time capsule that will be opened in 2050. I know you don't want to miss being a part of that.

I hope to see you all in 2025!



A good time was had by all!



After much discussion, it was decided the owl from our 10th Anniversary (drawn in yellow-gold) would grace the front of our black 25th Anniversary t-shirt.

It's only appropriate that yellow should be on the shirt, as it represents child energy in campers and dads alike. Remember those Dad jokes? And Black? Well among other things, black represents introspection and creativity, but in this case it represent female energy. Why? Women are held in high esteem by the Lakota. Remember, the sacred pipe was given to the Lakota by the Buffalo Calf Woman. In addition, when I ask campers how they found out about Night Eagle, over 95% reply, "My mom."

So, thanks campers, moms, and dads, without you there would be no Night Eagle! We are so glad you found us and let us enjoy getting to know your sons!

Opportunities for Growth at Night Eagle

At Night Eagle we strive to give boys an opportunity for growth, and it all begins with Respect: respect for nature, respect for others, and respect for themselves.

The Lakota culture is based on twelve virtues. At Night Eagle we talk about the importance of those virtues at the beginning of each session, and campers are chosen as leaders or gain status in the community based on their displaying those virtues. They are recognized in various ways for their accomplishments. For that purpose we have divided the twelve virtues into three groups.



Owl Feather, Mountain Fox, Mustang Sun, and Fisher Cares — our original Camper Leaders

Three Roads to Leadership

1) The three principle **Camper Leaders** each three-week session are selected by the staff and other camper leaders based on their displaying the virtues of *Bravery, Fortitude, Wisdom, and Generosity*. There are no other qualifications. We talk about each of these virtues when boys arrive, explaining that bravery, for example, could be shown by simply trying a new food or talking in front of the group. If a camper is selected as a camper leader, he is presented with a buffalo bone choker made by the director and told what he needs to do to fulfill his duty.

2) **Dog Men Warriors** were members of an elite society of the Cheyenne (allies of the Lakota). They were a highly respected group who displayed the ultimate expression of manhood and tribal identity.

Boys who want to be in this group must learn about the Dog Soldiers and challenge themselves both

mentally and physically as they strive to display the virtues of *Perseverance, Sacrifice, Fortitude, and Humility* through a variety of physical and non-physical challenges.

When a camper finishes the challenges given him, he is honored with a steak supper and a museum quality replica of a Plains Indian arrow complete with a knapped arrow head.

3) Finally, we have the **Fox Men** who were noted for their care and concern for the tribe in peaceful times as well as in times of war. No matter what needed to be done, no matter what the danger of difficulty, they were usually the first to volunteer. Their focus was on the community, not on individuality.

Most of the Akicita (similar to modern day police) were chosen from this society. They would act as guards and watch over the tribe when it moved from one place to another and keep watch for enemy activity when a camp was chosen.

All campers are encouraged to be in this group. They will strive to display the virtues of *bravery, honor, generosity, and compassion as they learn about the Lakota and* become valuable members of the community.

Three distinct groups in which boys can challenge themselves to become leaders of others.

Quote of the Day



I don't know how to save the world. I don't have the answers or The Answer. I hold no secret knowledge as to how to fix the mistakes of generations past and present. I only know that without compassion and respect for all of Earth's inhabitants, none of us will survive — nor will we deserve to."

- Leonard Peltier

Mystery Caterpillar of the Summer

Do you remember the great caterpillar invasion we had this summer? They seemed to be hanging in midair. Several campers even said they thought the caterpillars were biting or stinging them when they dropped or landed on someone.

Well, the critter is called the hickory tussock moth caterpillar. They are mostly found from Maine to Illinois and as far south as North Carolina, and they begin appearing from July through the fall.

Apparently, they like to feed on ash, willow, and maple, but can feed on most deciduous trees.



The cool thing about these caterpillars is that they use their hairs for defense. They are barbed, easily detach, and can become embedded in the skin of potential predators (which includes campers!). While the hairs have never been known to cause allergic reactions, they may irritate the skin, causing a rash on people who are sensitive to them.

What's even cooler is that when they spin their cocoons, they incorporate the hairs into the silk so that the cocoons are also protected. When caterpillars and cocoons are handled, the hairs may lay on a person's skin without becoming embedded and can easily be washed off with soap and water. If the hairs do become embedded, the sticky side of scotch tape can remove them most of the time. If that doesn't work, you may have to use tweezers to remove them. Next year we will know!



Night Eagle Sweatshirts - Order Now!

Okay, it's that time of year when we order Night Eagle hoody sweatshirts! Unlike larger camps, we can't keep a year-round supply of camp shirts and sweatshirts on hand. We do, however, try to order sweatshirts (Gildan heavy blend 8 oz.) once or twice a year! This will be our fall order.

The printers have told me that the sweatshirts should be ready in time for Christmas. **If you want to order one (or more), please let me know by Wednesday, November 20.** The cost is \$37.00 per sweatshirt, which includes shipping.

I would suggest that you have your son try on a sweatshirt in a store to make sure you know what size you want before ordering.

Sizes: Youth small, medium, large; Adult small, medium, large, X Large.



Ember Fox and Carries the Sun take a break to model the Night Eagle sweatshirt

Early Bird Campers Enrolled for 2025

<i>Seeks the Horizon</i>	<i>Whirling Flame</i>
<i>Western Moon</i>	<i>Silent Squirrel</i>
<i>Deer Seeker</i>	<i>Ember Fox</i>
<i>Mystic Moon</i>	<i>Fire Fox</i>
<i>Eastern Glow</i>	<i>Raven Walks</i>
<i>Colt Watches</i>	<i>Logan Fuller</i>
<i>Henri Baerschiger</i>	<i>Quintin Miller</i>

THINK SUMMER!

Spring Work and Play Weekend

This year's Spring Work and Play Weekend will be on May 3 and 4 (weather permitting). May 10-11 will be the snow/rain date. We invite you all to be part of the fun as we prepare camp for the summer.

This is an informal cooperative event that allows new and returning campers and their families to get to know one another while together we attack some of the many projects around camp as we prepare for the summer.

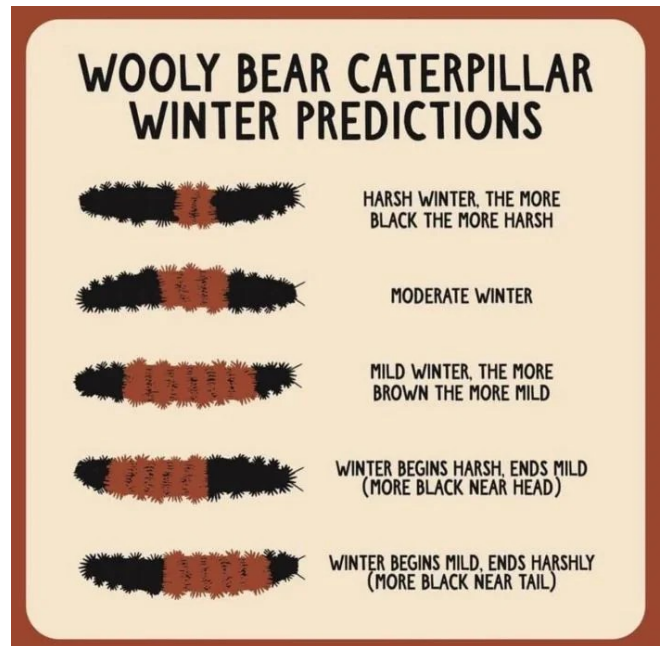
Families and friends are invited to come for all or part of either day or to join us for the entire weekend. This is a great time to introduce your friends to Night Eagle. The majority of the work will take place on Saturday beginning around 9:00 in the morning (*Night Eagle* time).

Families that are staying can bring a tent or reserve some space for their sleeping bags in one of the tipis that we'll put up for the weekend. We can also recommend some nearby motels or inns if you're more inclined to a hot shower and a soft bed after a day's work (and play).

Work projects at this year's gathering may include putting up a tipi or two, clearing the road of fallen trees, building a new spoke shave bench, building a new saw horse, checking the Long Trail Shelter at Little Rock Pond, re-lashing Hocoka, or any other projects we deem.



There are outdoor privies and running water at camp, but everyone should bring a personal water bottle. Food will mainly be a communal event. Pack a picnic lunch for your family on Saturday and a dish or two to share for a potluck dinner Saturday night. We'll provide Sunday breakfast. ***Please let us know if you plan to attend!***



Think and Grin

I made a chicken salad last night. Apparently, they prefer grain.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't return?
A stick.

To make a long story short, I became an editor.

Laughing out loud is forbidden in Hawaii because it's a low ha state.

There are three types of people in this world:
People who are good at math and people who are not.

Sundays are always a little sad, but the day before is a sadder day.

Why did Mozart hate chickens? Because when he asked them for their favorite composer, they said, "Bach! Bach! Bach!"



Help Us Spread the Word About Night Eagle!

If you had a good time at camp this summer,

please go to

https://g.page/r/Cf_HsDrQYqvHEAI/review

and leave a Review on our Business Profile!

Thanks!

Important Dates:

Sat., June 1	<i>Health Forms Due in the Office</i>
Wed., June 25	<i>Skills Week Begins</i>
Sat., June 29	<i>Staff Week Begins</i>
Sun., July 6	First 2, 3, Week Sessions Open 6-Week Session Opens
Sun., July 20	First 1-Week Session Opens 4-Week Sessions Opens
Sun., July 27	Second 2, 3 Week Sessions Opens
Sun., August 10	Second 1-Week Session Opens



Valley Sun and ***Earth Arrow*** after successfully tracking, stalking, and capturing a hat.