



The
Brickyard
Creek

Boreal Forest Citizen

A Forest Cabin Community Founded on Active Stewardship

Balsam Fir

Fall/Winter 2006/2007

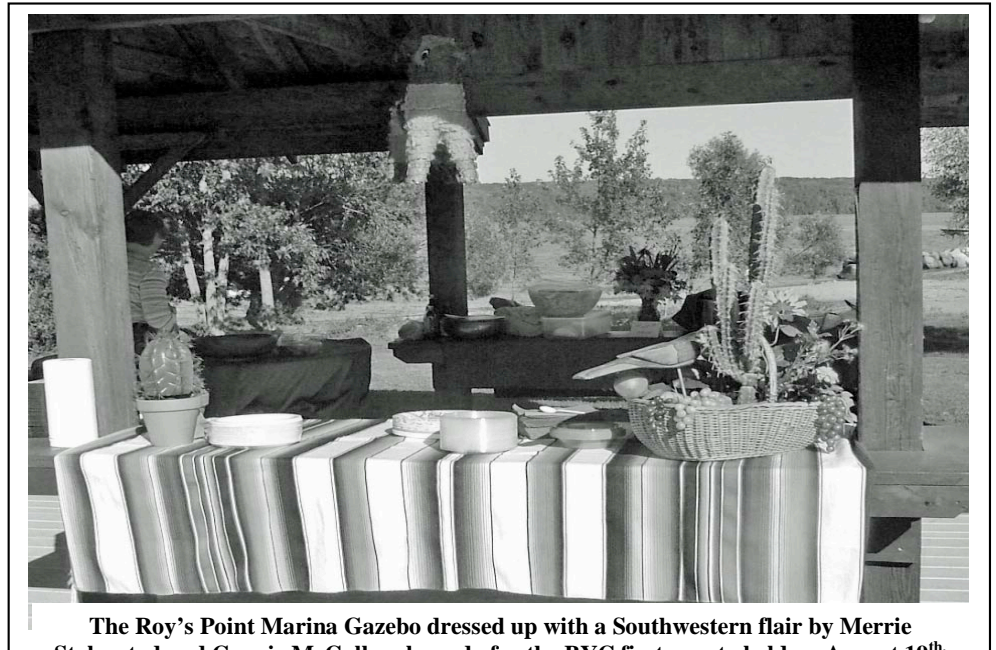
Vol. 1 No. 2

BYC: In An Evolutionary “Place”

(Stan Kaufman & BYC Board)

As a young and growing organization Brickyard Creek developers and its citizens have been in a kind of evolutionary “place” as we struggled to [a] keep the vision of Brickyard first and foremost, [b] configure a manner of leadership that would see the developer and members of the community work in concert toward the same goals as the project matured, and [c] establish a financial model that would serve the growing needs of the community while preserving our ability to serve the Mission and Vision of the development itself (long term preservation of the plants and animals that make up our little piece of heaven).

Continued on Page 2



The Roy's Point Marina Gazebo dressed up with a Southwestern flair by Merrie Stolpestad and Connie McCullough ready for the BYC fiesta party held on August 19th.

A Short History of Brickyard Creek

By David Culberson

Sitting very comfortably in the trade winds at my Caribbean home, I was struggling to envision the North woods. Bob, who was on St. John to work with me on an eco-tour resort, was describing land he had been purchasing near Bayfield. All I really knew from my geography books was that Bayfield was somewhere near the tundra, or on Lake Superior, or something like that. As Bob talked, I was picturing the quintessential small cottage nestled beneath the canopy of giant pines, surrounded with wild flowers, bear, and wolves – kind

of like Little Red Riding Hood’s place. I was also wondering why most of his working trips to the tropics were in the winter. I didn’t give the North woods much thought after that, happy to be living in a place that never, in the darkest night in the middle of winter, saw a temperature reading below 63 F. – ever. Little did I know that two kids later, and with a lot of pressure from my now ex-wife, I would be moving back to America, where, after 15 years in the Caribbean, I landed in Northern Virginia with boxes of

Continued on Page 2

What’s Inside

- **The Nature Trails of Brickyard Creek** Page 4
John Daly overviews the learning walks and activities of the summer and fall of 2006.
- **Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute (SOEI)** Page 7
The History and Philosophy of SOEI as BYC strengthens its Partnership with the Institute.
- **A Citizen Profile and A Robert Frost Poem** Page 8

We have come a long way in a few short years and I am pleased to see our community progressing to a place where for the most part we are all focused on the same goals and initiatives. Our goals for the year ahead are simple: First, we want to evolve to better management of our community which means a constant focus on the initiatives of the Grounds Committee as well as improving our ability to manage our increasing needs with road maintenance, snow removal, and garbage management; Second, our budget management system is improving with each month and we will meet the budget you all passed last January. We are in the process of developing the 2007 budget which you can look forward to receiving in January. That budget focuses on those goals mentioned above. It will be balanced and will contribute to our reserve account as well.

Finally, I am excited by the way the communities of Brickyard One and Two have melded both at the leadership (Board) level and at the community level. Our 2006 Summer Social at the Pavilion was a wonderful success and next year will be just as good if not better. I hear from all of the folks I talk to a consistent good feeling about the direction our community is taking. I am personally excited by the large number of us who are willing to step up to the plate and volunteer in one capacity or another for the betterment of Brickyard Creek. It is that commitment that will guarantee our long-term success as a very special community on the lake.

Stan Kaufman

flip-flops and other useless tropical artifacts.

It wasn't too long before Bob invited me to Bayfield to help him figure out what to do with all of those "North woods" properties he had purchased. I was looking forward to seeing this part of the world for the first time, but I was worried about the cold. Not having experienced winter in America for 15 years, I bought boots and a coat and headed to Minneapolis, where I was picked up at the heated airport in a heated car, parked in a heated garage and walked into a heated house. That was easy. The next day we started driving to Bayfield. I had always thought April was a relatively warm month. Not here. We stopped on the way and replaced my new boots and coat with newer boots and a warmer coat.

We drove through Duluth, where I got my first view of the largest lake in the world. There was ice in it. We traveled through a few small villages that seemed ready to be swallowed by either Lake Superior or the North woods, depending on which side of the highway you were on, and finally got to Bayfield. The trip left me a little puzzled. Some things were missing from my long held vision of the North woods. I turned to Bob and asked where all of the bear were.

They are still sleeping.

Where are the wild flowers?

It's too early in the year.

Where is Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother's cottage?

I don't know.

After a brief tour of Madeline Island and the Bayfield area, I started the first of a hundred walks through the Brickyard Creek forest. I'm glad I bought the new

boots. Fortunately, spring turned to summer and I started to feel right at home – with the mosquitoes; though they were thicker and more persistent here than I had ever seen in the Caribbean. I guess when you only have three or four months to do your thing; you are certainly going to be hell bound for glory to do it. I had a great time exploring the forest alone, and was only chased out twice, once by a mother bear, and the other time by a mother partridge.

Bob had just finished a marina – almost, and he had put up a new industrial looking building where the employees of the National Park Service were happily going about their business of maintaining the nearby islands – well, that's not quite true either, they didn't seem happy. The land around the marina was at issue. What could be done with it? Should anything be done with it? It didn't take a seasoned developer or a highly educated environmentalist to see that this land was obviously very unique. Lots of wild flowers, lots of bear, a great tree canopy - well, except for the meadow. A past associate of Bob's had prematurely cut two large swaths through the forest south of the creek assuming, I guess, that he would need a storage area for all of the boats in the new marina. We later cleared all of the felled trees and decided to call our new open space, "The Meadow". It seemed that the easiest thing to do with Brickyard would be to sub-divide the whole thing. The lakeshore lots would sell, but what about second and third tier lots. And what would

Continued on page 3

happen to the trees and the wildlife in a conventional subdivision? As I spent more and more time walking the land, I kept coming back to the vision I had had when first hearing about this property. Though the “cottage” idea had not hit home yet, I did see several areas where, if properly sited, a cottage could be built to look as though it was born there.

Unsure what to do, I decided to travel around the region to see what other developments in the North woods looked like. Throughout Northern Wisconsin and the North Shore of Minnesota I saw the standard fare of town homes, strip centers, and the ubiquitous plastic sided suburban homes sitting proudly just inches from the closest roadway. I was afraid that my vision of the quintessential “Cottage in the North woods” was busted.

Back in Bayfield, I suggested to Bob that we might have an opportunity to develop a world class “Cottage” resort on the land behind the marina. With some arm twisting and after a lot of explanation, he agreed. The planning of Brickyard Creek had officially started. After a lot of tweaking, the “Cottage Resort” idea evolved into a low-impact cottage neighborhood to be marketed as second (or third) homes. We were starting to get pretty excited about this project. We imported some of the concepts from our past eco resort project, invented a few more, hired an architect who was well versed in vernacular design, printed up some nice brochures, and waited for the buyers. Nothing happened. The locals and the people who were hanging around the new

Marina thought we were nuts. I remember a conversation I had with one of them. It went something like this -

We are going to build “turn of the century” style cottages in the forest behind the marina.

What about the mosquitoes?

We will clear an area just large enough for the footprint of the cottage and chip up the felled trees to create nature trails to the beach.

What about the mosquitoes.

We will create a set of legal documents that will allow for the forest surrounding each cottage to be preserved and even enhanced. We won't allow lawns, clear cutting, traditionally designed foundations, or any other environmentally destructive convention.

What about the mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes? We will use bacillus thuringiensis.

What's that?

It is a soil bacterium that kills mosquito larvae naturally.

What will the bats eat?

Things were pretty slow around here in the beginning. We had no buyers, but we did have a lot of head-scratching tire kickers who, once they learned about this crazy scheme, would go home to pack up their family and friends and bring them along just to see the circus. Encouraged, we decided to build a model cottage. We built a Creekside design just across the creek from the marina. We didn't have a bridge so I placed a couple of logs over the creek for access to the model from our office at the marina. My contention was that anybody who couldn't cross the creek on the logs without falling in shouldn't own a cottage in the North woods. Bob didn't agree. So, armed with a brand new

vehicular bridge and our brand new Creekside Cottage, we prepared for the onslaught of eager buyers. Nothing happened.

One could have assumed that we were definitely way out on the fringe if compared to conventional projects. As I look back I am starting to realize that not only were we nowhere near the fringe, we weren't even on the same planet. We didn't clear lots. We only cut roads that were needed to access the few cottage sites we were offering for sale at the time. We planted native prairie grass in the meadow. We created several hundred feet of wood-chipped nature trails. We hoped that our prospective buyers would get to see a bear while looking at cottage sites and not run all the way home to Minneapolis. We actually condominiumized the cottages so that the land around the cottages would be protected through recorded restrictions. We designed a pier system that kept the cottages above the land so the foundations would not alter existing drainage patterns. We voluntarily reduced our allowed densities. We frowned upon turning the forest into a park-like setting. Trees that fell in the forest stay to add nutrients for the next generation. We didn't even have a sign. Bob once commented to me that, “We are the best secret project in the state”.

We were stuck scratching our heads and wondering what else we could do to make this thing work. It is difficult to walk a prospective buyer onto a heavily wooded cottage site and show them the

Continued on page 4

exact spot where their kitchen sink will be located. Not that we didn't know where it was to be located, we did; or I did (Bob was still a bit behind the eight ball). It's just that most people cannot envision a cottage when a cottage isn't there. Bob asked me what we should do. After considerable thought, I concluded that I didn't know. While still scratching, and to our surprise, a few very brave buyers started showing up and signing up for cottages. We were finally able to build a microcosm of the proposed project, which made envisioning cottages, and sales, a lot easier.

A few of you bought into this concept early on. Some have just recently come aboard. But you were all obviously attracted to something here, and it wasn't just our good looks. After all, even though we are developers, we refused to be looked upon as sex symbols. Whatever the attraction – the Lake, the meadow, the wildlife, the creek, the trails, the speed bump – let's hope that we can preserve it far into the future so that our children and their children will be able to spend time at Brickyard Creek and enjoy the same things we have had the great opportunity to experience. D. C.

In the woods we return to reason and faith.

Emerson



TRILLIUM
Trillium grandiflorum

The Nature Trails of Brickyard Creek

By John Daly

Trail: A quiet path with no beginning nor a specified destination; an opportunity to listen – to truly listen - to nature and to oneself. It is a controlled challenge that allows the participant to set a pace and an agenda that is their very own.

THIS definition does not come from any dictionary. Do not waste your time searching for it or editing the text for it is my personal definition. I own it! I created it as I walked the trails of Brickyard Creek one mid-summer day. For some unknown reason, I gave myself permission to sit and listen to nature. The words that make up this definition were jotted down on a small spiral pad of paper that now accompanies me on these personal nature walks. I use it to loosely document the walk's flora and fauna and to capture my thoughts for future reference or to read again on the next walk. The trails of Brickyard Creek are a continuous gift to all of us from nature and from ourselves.

My walks on the trails are more meaningful now. This is due to a new perspective I have thanks to Anna, Ashley, Dale, Jacob, Mike, Ted and Stacy. These seven individuals have helped me to gain a working knowledge and some basic skills about this natural environment through the learning walks they have led throughout the summer on the trails of Brickyard Creek. They shared their expertise; their passion and their stories with small groups of Brickyard Creek Neighbors as we walked the trails and had a common adventure with nature.

We have all heard about and experienced nature walks. We can recall these memories from our youth scouting days, maybe a family camping trip or perhaps a solo excursion into a natural environment with only a trail map in hand. Nature walks have been defined as a way to get acquainted with our natural surroundings; an opportunity to look closer and think more deeply about the world of nature that we may have taken for granted. Nature walks bring peace, solitude and a sense of wonder to our busy lives. They also challenge one to learn more about the natural environment and how we can become responsible stewards.

"When we destroy the environment we are destroying ourselves."

Peter Mathiesson

The Grounds Committee re-defined the intent of a nature walk to fit the stewardship theme of the committee's short-term and long-term goals. In May 2006, the committee initiated the Learning Walks. At the annual meeting, a schedule of learning walks with focus topics was shared with the members of Brickyard Creek Condo. Association and the Umbrella Association. All of the walks have been strictly optional. The planners acknowledge that these dates/topics may only draw small numbers of participants but in itself this is a component of stewardship – "to nurture and support the smallest of numbers for the greater good." The remainder of this article is a summation of the five- (5) learning walks that took place from May to October 2006 at Brickyard Creek.

Continued on page 5

Learning Walk One
Saturday, May 27, 2006

**Memorial Day: Walk-About
& Talk-About Brickyard
Creek**

*Leader: Dale Klubertanz (BYC
Neighbor - Cottage #18)*

FELLOW neighbor and Grounds Committee member, Dale Klubertanz led the 1st Learning Walk along the trails and the side roads. Along the way he shared some key findings from his study of this area, a unique Boreal Forest. Dale and several others on the walk pointed out the native trees, scrubs and wildflowers and the group had fun quizzing one another about the names of the flora on our common ground. Many participants shared their interest in having the trees labeled with name stakes. They suggested that this action would be valued by all that walked the trails (neighbors and the renters).

Update: Within a few weeks after this walk, Dale and John Daly met with Anna Hochhalter and Ashley Reisler, interns from the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College. They helped Dale and John to accurately identify the trees so that name stakes can be created and eventually staked along the trails. Dale has already started to complete the job.

Learning Walk Two
Saturday, June 24, 2006

**Safe Control of Invasive
Plants Through Chemical and
Non-Chemical Means**

*Leaders: Anna Hochhalter and Stacy
Schaefer
(Sigurd Olson Environmental
Institute at Northland College in
Ashland, WI)*

WE all know how difficult it is to control weeds around our family homes. The common grounds of Brickyard Creek present a more challenging task. This not a problem for many of us until we or our pets fall victim to burdock, thistle or several other noxious weeds. The Grounds Committee has been working on this problem for several years. There has been a roadway adoption program in place where committee members have accepted the responsibility to try and control the aggressive weeds. Several neighbors have asked for help from the Grounds Committee. Specifically, the help has involved identification of the weeds and training in the application of a pesticide. The committee members have shied away from acting as trainers when they lack the overall knowledge and skills.

Once again, Brickyard Creek has benefited by a relationship with the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. Interns Anna Hochhalter and Stacy Schaefer from the institute led the 2nd Learning Walk. This time the walk was stationary. The participants met at the office cottage and stayed at this spot to learn about the dominant weeds to this region and to learn about the proper application techniques to control the weeds along the trails, the roadways and the common ground areas. Anna demonstrated these techniques by applying a recommended pesticide (Rodeo) while Dale Klubertanz videotaped it for future reference and Stacy added a narration to help everyone understand the process. The interns answered the numerous questions about the time of the

season, the proper wearing apparel and the cost of the application tools. The participants voiced their gratitude to the interns for this valuable session. They also urged the Grounds Committee to repeat this learning walk in the future so other neighbors could gain this helpful information.

Update: The videotape that Dale created has been copied to CD's and it was distributed at the August 19th Learning Walk. Brickyard Creek Neighbors can obtain their own copy of "Managing Invasive Plants Safely and Without Harm" by contacting Dale Klubertanz at dsklubertanz@merr.com

Learning Walk Three
Saturday, July 22, 2006

**"Assessment of the Health
and the Enhancement of the
Creek"**

*Leader: Ted Koehler
(Fish and Wildlife Services,
Department of the Interior in Ashland,
WI)*

"A creek runs through it". This play on the popular movie title captures the intent of one of the long-term goals of the Grounds Committee, the health of the creek. The movie uses as a backdrop to the story line the relationship the main characters have with a beautiful river. They find peace and adventure here. They realize the importance of being stewards of it.

In March 2003, Bob Davidson requested of the Fish and Wildlife Service a health assessment of the creek including the banks, the flowage, fish habitat and buffer areas that protect it. Ted Koehler provided this assessment and his department made several

recommendations for restoration projects. Bob approved all of these projects and, at his expense, the work was completed between Summer 2003 and Spring 2004.

At the invitation of the Grounds Committee, Ted Koehler of the Fish and Wildlife Service led the 3rd Learning Walk. Ted met a small group of neighbors at the cottage office and shared with us copies of the original plan. The recommendations in this plan included three restoration projects.

1. The removal of a fish barrier – Summer 2003
2. The stabilization of the stream bank near the barrier – Summer 2003
3. The restoring of a riparian forest buffer (along the meadow) – Spring 2004

After a review of the plan, Ted walked with us along the creek and in the meadow to assess the current status of these projects. The first two projects are in good shape but only about 45% of the trees that were planted to provide the buffer have survived. Ted suggested that this could be an on-going project for anyone here at Brickyard Creek. The trees are marked by yellow flags and they are planted on the northern end of the meadow. The strategy is simple. One only needs to walk along the meadow and push aside or pull the tall grass near the trees so that they can get more direct sunlight and moisture. Watch your step.

Many neighbors have asked the Grounds Committee to consider the removal of another barrier. It is located at the base of the long stairs along the trails below cottages #9 and #10. This barrier

is composed of fallen trees, pieces of railroad ties and natural sediment. The common concern is that we do not disrupt the creek but help to restore and enhance it. Ted reviewed the area and advised us to remove the barrier. The challenge would be getting the heavy equipment to this site. Ted also had a suggestion – “Horse Logging”.

Update: On August 19th, the next learning walk attended to the removal of this barrier by the historic method of “horse logging”. A summation is provided below. Also, if anyone would like to have a copy of the original plan for the restoration projects, contact John Daly.



“Sherry”

**Learning Walk Four
Saturday, August 19, 2006**

“Horse Logging”

*Leader: Jacob Oblatz
(a professional logger from Mason,
WI)*

THE primary objective and theme of the Grounds Committee multiple year goals is to be educated stewards and in our practice to be respectful of the environment. When Ted Koehler of the Fish and Wildlife Service

recommended that we remove the barrier in the creek at the base of the stairs, we realized that the use of heavy equipment on the trails would not be an option for us. We soon learned about the historic practice of “Horse Logging”.

The 4th Learning Walk focused on the removal of the barrier in the creek at the base of the stairs below cottages #9 & #10. Jacob Oblatz and “Sherry” (his Belgian horse) greeted an enthusiastic group of twenty-two Brickyard Creek Neighbors at 9:00 in the morning. Together we all entered the trail by the bridge and walked to the barrier in the creek. Along the way, one of the neighbors started to sing “Whistle While You Work” (from Disney’s Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs) and Jacob shared the history of horse logging in this region of the state.

The barrier removal is expected to allow the creek to flow more freely and to enhance the chances for the native brown trout to return to the creek. Ted Koehler had stated in an earlier walk that the future maintenance of the creek could be the responsibility of the neighbors of Brickyard Creek on a seasonal basis. He suggested that the removal of this barrier should also be part of a plan to restore the creek bank. Jacob and “Sherry” removed the barrier and positioned the remnants along the creek bank for future use to anchor it from further erosion. The Grounds Committee will now work with Ted Koehler of the Fish and Wildlife Service to assure that the creek remains open and the creek bank is secure.

Continued on page 7

Learning Walk Five
Saturday, October 14, 2006

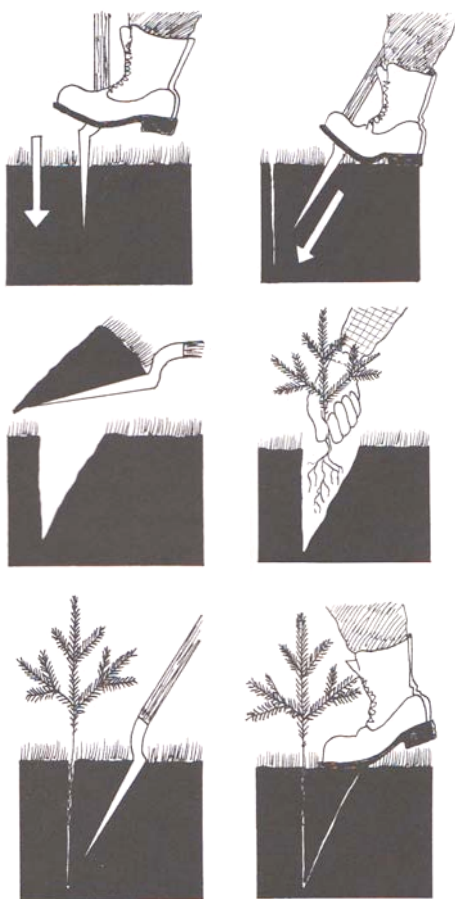
**“Annual Clean-Up Weekend
of the Trails and Common
Grounds”**

Leader: Grounds Committee Members

The Learning Walks will continue in 2007 at Brickyard Creek (BYC). A schedule of the Learning Walks will be shared at the annual membership meeting on Memorial Day Weekend.

Do you have a suggestion for a Learning Walk topic in 2007? Please share your idea with an email to John Daly at spoonful5@charter.net

Planting Seedlings



Careful tree planting is essential to seedling survival. This is especially true in planting “bare-root” plants.

(From *The Woodlot Management Handbook* by Steward Hilts and Peter Mitchell)

Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute (SOEI)

Institute Philosophy

The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College is guided by the philosophy of writer and conservationist Sigurd F. Olson.

- **In the spirit of Sigurd F. Olson, we empower citizens to be good stewards of the environment.**
- **We facilitate solutions to environmental problems in the North Country through education, research, and citizen involvement.**

The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute is an environmental outreach organization, consisting of outreach specialists who use student and faculty support to distribute messages about protecting and restoring the natural water and terrestrial habitats in the Lake Superior region and beyond.

Our outreach specialists are a voice of Sigurd's legacy. Here at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, we help people connect to their environments and take pride in their communities. We make tangible Sigurd's philosophy of respectful relations between humans and nature. We help foster these sentiments in those with whom we interact, whether elementary or middle school students, high school students, Northland College students and faculty, continuing education students, or the general community.

For more information; (715) 682-1223 soei@northland.edu

Institute History

On August 27, 1971, a little more than a year after the celebration of the first Earth Day, Northland College hosted its first environmental conference.

Among those invited to address the two-day conference were Senator Gaylord Nelson and Sigurd F. Olson. The conference became "the instrument of origin of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute," as Robert Matteson, the founder of the Institute, wrote. With energy to move in an exciting and new direction, the Institute opened its doors in spring of 1972, embarking on more than three decades of serving Northland College and the Lake Superior region.

1972 - *First problem solving workshop held: Land Use and Zoning*

1973-75 - *Creation of the first post-graduate fellow positions and basin programs*

1978 - *Project LoonWatch begins/environment and spirituality programs begin*

1981 - *Sustainably designed Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute dedicated*

1982 - *Memorial service to honor Sigurd F. Olson held following his death*

1983 - *Sigurd F. Olson professorship endowed*

1985 - *First Sigurd T. Olson Loon Research Award given*

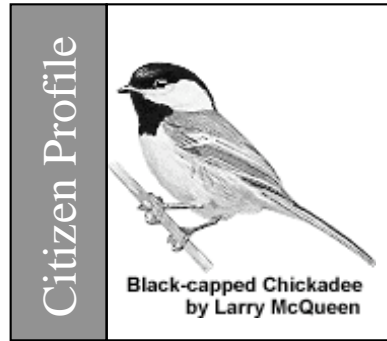
1987 - *Timber Wolf Alliance created*

1989 - *Infusing Ojibwe World Views curriculum developed*

1992 - *U.S. Secretariat position for the Lake Superior Binational Forum created*

Continued on page 8

1994-95 - Sustainable Forestry Guidelines written for three states
1994 - First Lake Superior Youth Symposium held at Northland College
1998 - Northern Forest Restoration program begins
1999 - Wilderness Horizons Conference held
2001 - Land Stewardship outreach services begin
2004 - First Pathfinders session held
2005 - North American Loon Fund endowment established for the Sigurd T. Olson Loon Research Award



Wildlife strategies for adapting to the rigors of winter are as diverse as those of the plant world: hibernation, circulatory-counter-current heat exchange (waterfowl feet), large sizes with more favorable surface area to volume ratios, burrowing, floating, annual migration and biochemical "anti-freeze".

The black-capped chickadees at our bird feeders wear a cleverly arranged feather pattern of black and white designed to absorb light and heat where the sun strikes on their backs and heads, with white undersides, especially around their sides, chest and stomachs providing superior insulation. White feathers (and hair) offer better insulation than dark feathers, because feathers that lack the pigment of melanin are more hollow and air-filled, thus are better insulators, like down filled vests and sleeping bags.

Two Look At Two by Robert Frost

Love and forgetting might have carried them
A little further up the mountain side
With night so near, but not much further up.
They must have halted soon in any case
With thoughts of a path back, how rough it was
With rock and washout, and unsafe in darkness;
When they were halted by a tumbled wall
With barbed-wire binding. They stood facing this,
Spending what onward impulse they still had
In One last look the way they must not go,
On up the failing path, where, if a stone
Or earthslide moved at night, it moved itself;
No footstep moved it. 'This is all,' they sighed,
Good-night to woods.' But not so; there was more.
A doe from round a spruce stood looking at them
Across the wall, as near the wall as they.
She saw them in their field, they her in hers.
The difficulty of seeing what stood still,
Like some up-ended boulder split in two,
Was in her clouded eyes; they saw no fear there.
She seemed to think that two thus they were safe.

Then, as if they were something that, though strange,
She could not trouble her mind with too long,
She sighed and passed unscared along the wall.
'This, then, is all
What more is there to ask?'
But no, not yet. A snort to bid them wait.
A buck from round the spruce stood looking at them
Across the wall as near the wall as they.
This was an antlered buck of lusty nostril,
Not the same doe come back into her place.
He viewed them quizzically with jerks of head,
As if to ask, 'Why don't you make some motion?
Or give some sign of life? Because you can't.
I doubt if you're as living as you look.'
Thus till he had them almost feeling dared
To stretch a proffering hand -- and a spell-breaking.
Then he too passed unscared along the wall.
Two had seen two, whichever side you spoke from.
'This must be all.' It was all. Still they stood,
A great wave from it going over them,
As if the earth in one unlooked-for favour
Had made them certain earth returned their love.

Brickyard Creek Boreal Forest Citizen

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