



# GUNFLINT TIMES

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL  
*Historical Society*

VOLUME X

GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

## REMEMBERING RALPH GRIFFIS

Ralph Griffis passed away this winter. His name is not familiar to lots of people now but those of us who have been around awhile remember him well. Our most recent memories are of the generous way he and his wife, Bea, helped financial set the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center on a sound course.

he was interested. Ralph explained to this novice woods woman that the Granite River flowed north into Saganaga, his lake. It took about a week for the water to complete its journey down the Granite River. So after Gunflint Lake stopped rising about a week later Saganaga would also stop rising. I felt a little dumb.



*Ralph & Bea Griffis at sports show.*

For those of you to whom Ralph's name is new, he and Bea owned Chik-Wauk Lodge from the late 1950s until they sold to the government in 1980. They came into this area when Ralph worked as an engineer helping to build the ore processing plant in Silver Bay. Together they spent time exploring the surrounding area. Eventually they came to Chik-Wauk Lodge. At about this same time Herb and Erma Brugger were ready to sell. A deal was struck and Ralph and Bea became the new owners of Chik-Wauk in 1958.

My memories of Ralph are much more personal. One day early in our marriage I answered the phone to hear Ralph's southern drawl on the line. It was spring and we'd had quite a bit of rain. He asked if the water level on Gunflint Lake was still rising. I answered yes and then asked why

## NEW EXHIBIT!

"The Gunflint Trail's First Pioneer Family" is the title for this year's temporary exhibit. If you guessed that the Boostrom family is that family, you are correct.



*Charlie & Petra Boostrom.*

Charlie's first trip to the Gunflint Trail was in 1909 to prospect for precious metals, but he is especially remembered as a sought-after wilderness guide and builder of the historic Clearwater Lodge. Petra joined Charlie in 1913. She was the mother of ten children as well as a gracious hostess. She wore many hats—including being the cook, blue-ribbon bread baker, gardener, disciplinarian, and dog-sled musher. She even had her own trap line.

The family is sharing many artifacts for this year's exhibit only. You won't want to miss seeing Charlie's famous hat or some of Petra's handiwork, including a lampshade made out of old Life magazines. She never threw anything away.

Chik-Wauk's temporary exhibit changes every year; plan to return each year for other exciting, educational and historical topics.

*Betty Hemstad, Temporary Exhibits Chair*

Being a good neighbor came easily to Ralph. Those of us who knew him will miss Ralph. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his widow and lifelong companion, Bea.

*Sue Kerfoot, Historian*

## WHAT'S OUTDOORS: SEEDLINGS, LETTERBOXES, AND MORE

There is no early spring for 2013, but summer is on its way nonetheless. The woods around Chik-Wauk are responding in nature's amazing way to the constant changes thrown at them. What is "normal" anyway?

There are four-foot tall new jack pines in the burn area and birch clumps that are way over my head. It's especially fun to see the red and white pine seedlings planted by our wonderful Green Up volunteers. They are not only surviving, but actually putting on growth like they too are going to be a forest. I suppose we all knew it would happen, but it didn't seem quite possible in 2007 after the Ham Lake Fire. I also don't need to tell a lot of you this, but Chik-Wauk is THE place to blueberry pick.



*There's no shortage of blueberries on the Chik-Wauk grounds! Photo by Keitha Herron.*

There are a few other things going on outside at Chik-Wauk. Several of us are taking a Master Naturalist class offered through the University of Minnesota Extension program. Part of the class involves individual projects and Chik-Wauk is benefiting from these volunteering opportunities.



*The Blueberry Hill Trail received a lot of use last summer after volunteers reopened the trail in the spring. Photo by Finn Garry.*

One project is a kid oriented outdoor activity called "letterboxing" which is kind of a treasure hunt or low-tech version of geocaching. Kids use clues to find a hidden box on the property where they can sign its log book and also use a stamp to make a note in their own personal journal.

Secondly, the Master Naturalist volunteers are also going to have a newly done hiking brochure that will have all the trails including Blueberry Hill in one form. It seems that in three short years we've outgrown our old one and need to make sure our visitors don't get lost!

The third project is developing a short walk around the museum property that explains some of the highlights that we think make our neck of the woods so special. It'll be presented in a single page form that people can either use on their own or one of our Chik-Wauk volunteers can tag

along to do more of a "guided" tour of the area. Sometimes, those of us who are so familiar with the surroundings might overlook or at least forget to point out plants, animal signs, birds, geological formations and historical things that would otherwise go unnoticed by the casual visitor.

The goal of these projects is to enhance the "nature" experience at Chik-Wauk. It truly is too good not to share!

Thanks to everyone who helps with all this outdoorsy stuff. We hope you'll continue to do so.

*Kathy Lande, Grounds*



*The Chik-Wauk lawn is the perfect place for a picnic on a sunny summer day. Photo by Finn Garry.*

## IT'S ALMOST TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

All current GTHS memberships expire on June 30, 2013. Watch for your renewal notification in the mail during the first week of June. Keep your membership current by renewing via mail, in person at the museum front desk, or online at [www.GunflintTrailHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.GunflintTrailHistoricalSociety.org).

Did you know that approximately 10% of a \$25 individual/couple membership processed through the mail is

spent on incidental costs such as postage, stationary, and printing?

You can put 97% of your membership monies to work preserving Gunflint Trail history when you renew online. By giving online, you save yourself the hassle of a paper renewal notice. You can also arrange to set up an installment plan through the Vanco payment server at [www.GunflintTrailHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.GunflintTrailHistoricalSociety.org)

to pay weekly, monthly, or annually so you never have to worry about mailing a check again.

A huge thank you to all of you who donated to the Gunflint Trail Historical Society during last November's Give to the Max Day. Together we raised an additional \$4500 for the GTHS's endowment fund. We are so grateful for your generosity and support. Members keep the GTHS strong!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE!

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center was created to capture the history of those people who had come before us to the Gunflint Trail area: Voyageurs, Native Americans, miners, loggers, and resorters. The GTHS in collaboration with the U. S. Forest Service was created in 2005 with Betty Hemstad as our first president.

Betty was meticulous in every aspect of her responsibilities, from recruiting the original board of trustees, scoping out the museum project, organizing the volunteers and following up on every last detail. At the same time, Sue Kerfoot was collecting and cataloging artifacts, recording oral histories, and working directly with Betty in organizing the layout of the museum. Sue and Betty worked directly with Split Rock Studios who had been hired to build the museum's exhibits from the artifacts that had been collected. So it was natural for Sue to succeed Betty as the GTHS's second president and under her leadership the final details were completed and the museum was opened on schedule during the summer of 2010.

In the background all this time was Fred Smith. Fred had taken on the responsibility of preparing the former Chik-Wauk Lodge to house the new museum. This was a huge task and with the help of many volunteers and Fred's leadership and tireless effort the building was transformed from a vacant, rundown lodge building to the fabulous structure we have today. So it was only fitting that on July 4th, 2010 that Fred presided over the opening ceremonies as the newly elected president of the GTHS.

When the membership of the GTHS elected me as your new president at the annual meeting last June, it was very humbling to follow in the footsteps of our previous presidents Betty, Sue and Fred. Under their leadership we have seen the formation of the GTHS and the realization of the dream of our membership as the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center became a reality. One of the most impressive aspects of the Gunflint Trail community is the diverse talents and experience

of its residents. I have highlighted the efforts of our past presidents, but many of our members have stepped up and served as a trustee, volunteered as site manager or docent at the museum or have put their talents, experience and sweat into so many tasks that have been accomplished over the past several years. You all know who you are and we the officers and trustees of the GTHS thank you.



*Guests mingle and enjoy homemade pie at the 2012 Pie and Ice Cream Social.*

2012 saw over 8,400 visitors at the museum bringing our three-year total to over 28,000 people. These individuals have witnessed the history of our pioneers and absorbed a bit of nature while attending naturalist presentations and hiking our network of trails.

As we head into our fourth season, the GTHS continues to grow as we now have over 500 active memberships which translate to over 900 loyal and dedicated members who support our officers and trustees as together we continue to build on the history and legacy of the Gunflint Trail. And yes, it is — ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE!

*Bob Baker, Sr., President*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

During the previous year, admissions, memberships, gift shop sales and contributions all continued to increase. This has allowed us to continue increasing our programs and operating budget while paying all of our current expenses with operating income.

We will also be able to pay for the ongoing Cultural Landscape Assessment using grant money from a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant, administered by the Minnesota Historical Society. Additional funds from an Iron Range Resources Culture and Tourism Grant completes funding for this project.

The most significant financial decision the GTHS made last year was the development of an endowment fund. The GTHS Board chose to invest all prior and future memorial contributions into a separate fund to help insure the future stability, viability, and improvement of the GTHS.

Last fall, the endowment fund was established using \$40,000 in memorial contributions received since the beginning of the GTHS. Since then additional contributions and investment income has increased the fund to almost \$50,000. The GTHS plans to keep increasing the fund using gifts specified as endowment funds and all memorial gifts unless the donor specifies a different use, when of course their wishes will be honored. In the future, the GTHS Board may decide to use the income generated by the fund to support special projects, innovative programs, additional staffing, and other uses that will help meet our goals of preserving the history of the Gunflint Trail.

*Bud Darling, Treasurer*

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

28 MOOSE POND DRIVE • GRAND MARAIS, MN 55604 • (218) 388-9915

GUNFLINTTRAILHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG • CHIKWAUK.COM

## COMING SOON TO YOUR MUSEUM

Last summer, the staff of the Grand Portage National Monument graciously shared a copy of their new short film – the Grand Portage Story – with the GTHS. Our tech guy, Jeremy Ridlbauer, has been working to add this fourth presentation to our little theater. Starting on opening day, May 25, 2013, Chik-Wauk visitors will be able to enjoy this 25-minute film in the Chik-Wauk theatre.

Ever since opening, there have been concerns about noise spill-over from one area of audio/video presentation to another inside the museum. GTHS leadership is investigating alternatives that can minimize this problem. We are fortunate to have a Trustee, John Schloot, with expertise in this area. He analyzed the situation and has now implemented a pilot project in the “Pioneers” video kiosk area by installing two domed speakers above the seating area.

The special speakers focus audio waves down to listeners, rather than broadcasting the sound horizontally through the entire museum. If effective, the GTHS Board will look into revising other areas with audio interference.

It is a pleasure to announce an addition to our administrative staff. Last autumn, the GTHS Board authorized the expansion of our operations staff at Chik-Wauk. In January and February, the GTHS started the search process and received five applications for the newly created Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center Operations Assistant position. In March, a small hiring committee reviewed applications and extended a job offer to Kathy Lande.

As most of you know, Kathy has been a critical component of this venture since it began in 2004. We look forward to her coming on board this season and sharing her gift of commitment and work ethic along with many years of real life historical experience living on the Trail.

*Fred Smith, Museum Chair*



*Daisies in full bloom along the Chik-Wauk driveway. Photo by Finn Garry.*

## UPDATE ON THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

This past summer, the board hired Quinn Evans Architects of Madison, WI to produce a Cultural Landscape Report for the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center property. Over the last few years, the GTHS has learned that the purpose of this report is to gather together all the information we now have about the physical buildings that were once a part of Chik-Wauk Lodge. This information can then be used as a basis for future development of the property in a historically accurate manner. In fact, it would be very difficult for the GTHS to move forward with future developments without first developing this document.

In the third week of December 2012, Brenda Williams from Quinn Evans came up for a site inspection. On the way she visited with Lee Johnson from the U. S. Forest Service’s Heritage Division in Duluth. He gave her all the information on Chik-

Wauk that the Forest Service had accumulated when they bought the property.

On this trip Brenda also met with Rick Anderson who worked at Chik-Wauk during a couple of summers in the 1970s. He shared a lot of valuable information on the location of buildings, the dock, etc.

Brenda spent one day on the Chik-Wauk grounds with Kathy Lande, Bruce Kerfoot and Sue Kerfoot. Together, the four of them worked to locate exact building sites. Even with snow on the ground they made significant progress.

Finally, Brenda took home all the historical pictures of Chik-Wauk Lodge that showed buildings. Brenda will use these photos and the building locations to enhance a site map she’d already prepared with information she had previously received from the GTHS.

Next, Brenda will interview people who may know something about the former Chik-Wauk Lodge buildings. Interviewees will be people who were in the buildings regularly, such as Chik-Wauk cabin girls, dock boys and maintenance men. However, the Cultural Landscape Report won’t be a collection of stories about the resort. Rather the report will provide a blueprint of the former physical layout of Chik-Wauk Lodge.

Everyone who has worked with Brenda is very impressed with her professionalism and her willingness to work with us. Brenda will visit Chik-Wauk again this summer to gather more information. The anticipated completion date for this report is February 2014.

*Sue Kerfoot, Historian*

# 2013 GTHS & CHIK-WAUK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events subject to change.

Please call Chik-Wauk Museum & Nature Center at 218-388-9915 to confirm.

## GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. After a brief overview of GTHS business, a guest speaker presents Gunflint Trail tales and history. Treats and conversation follow.

### Monday, June 10

Gunflint Lodge Conference Center

### Monday, July 8

Schaap Community Center adjacent to Fire Hall #1

### Monday, August 5

Gunflint Lodge Conference Center

### Monday, September 9

Gunflint Lodge Conference Center

## GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENTS

### Monday, June 17, Noon

#### Fish Fry Luncheon

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center

### Sunday, July 21

#### Clearwater Lake Home Tour

Clearwater Lodge. Tickets required. (Members-only event)

### Saturday, August 17, 4 p.m.

#### Gunflint Woods, Winds & Strings Chamber Music Concert

Schapp Community Center. Tickets required. Social hour will follow concert.

### Sunday, September 1, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### Old Fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center

## BOREAL BIRDING FESTIVAL

### Saturday, June 1, 7 a.m.

#### Birding for Spring Migrants Nature Walk

Join Ann Russ for a morning of birding, listening and watching for spring migrants on the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center grounds. Bring binoculars if you have them. No experience necessary. Ann has been birding in Cook County for thirty years and considers annual bird migrations one of life's joys. Meet on Chik-Wauk front porch. Free and open to the public.

## SUNDAY WALKS & TALKS

### Sundays, July 7 – August 25. 2 p.m.

All presentations and walks begin by gathering on Chik-Wauk's front porch. Free and family friendly.

### July 7

#### Breeding Birds of Chik-Wauk

Look for evidence of birds that live around Chik-Wauk and find out why they choose to nest here. A retired teacher, Ann has been birding in Cook County for thirty years and loves exploring the natural world with others.

### July 14

#### Wildfire Ecology

Head off on Chik-Wauk's Big Sag hiking trail with Gunflint Trail resident and naturalist, John Silliman, to get a firsthand glimpse at wildfire ecology. Sturdy shoes and a hiking stick recommended.

### July 21:

#### Historic Songs of the North Shore

Naturalists Kati Kristenson and David Stieler will lead a sing-a-long program of songs of the North Shore with discussion on the history of the songs.

### July 28

#### Gunflint Trail Wild Edibles

Join author Teresa Marrone in a pleasant hike to explore wild berries, mushrooms and other wild edibles near Chik Wauk. Teresa Marrone is the author of several cookbooks and has also written a field ID guide about wild berries and fruits of Minnesota.

### August 4

#### The World Beneath the Water

Bob Carlson, a former professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Kent State University, will introduce you to the life in a lake or stream.

### August 11: Introduction to Manoomin

Naturalist Will Tanner will teach you how to scout for wild rice and will demonstrate canoe poling, knocking, parching, dancing, winnowing, cooking, and even, eating.

### August 18: I'm "Lichen" This Hike

Kati Kristenson will lead participants on a lichen scavenger hunt on Chik-Wauk's network of hiking trails. During the hike, she'll answer lichen questions such as: What is it? Where does it grow? What does it do?

### August 25: Gunflint Trail Mammals

Look for animal signs on Chik-Wauk trails with naturalist John Silliman.

## JOURNAL MAKING WORKSHOPS

### Fridays June 7, July 5, and August 9, 2 p.m.

Chik-Wauk staff and volunteers will teach a simple technique to make small journals to log nature observations and other notes. After you've assembled your journal, you can decorate it however you choose using collage, stamping, drawing, and more. Appropriate for all ages.

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE NATURALIST PROGRAMS

### Tuesdays, June 18 – August 20, 3 p.m.

Bats, beavers, meteor strikes, and moose, oh my! Each Tuesday, U.S. Forest Service naturalists present on a different Northwoods themed topic each week. Free and family friendly. Meet on Chik-Wauk front porch.

## STORIES WITH HARRIET AND BILL

### Wednesdays, June 19 – August 28, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Harriet Boostrom Taus and Bill Boissenin grew up on Clearwater Lake. Every Wednesday from mid-June until the end of August, the two will be on hand at the museum to share their childhood stories. You'll learn the history of Harriet's parents, Charlie and Petra Boostrom, who were among the first white settlers on the Gunflint Trail and hear stories from the early days of Clearwater and Forest Lodges.

## CHIK-WAUK KIDS STUFF

### Mondays, July 1, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 12, and August 19, 1:30 p.m.

Join Chik-Wauk staff for a variety of hands-on activities all related to the unique history and nature of the Gunflint Trail. Appropriate for elementary school aged children and those young at heart.



# THANK YOU GTHS MEMBERS!

GTHS Members with current memberships as of April 10, 2013. To inquire about your membership, please contact us at [info@gunflinttrailhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@gunflinttrailhistoricalsociety.org) or 218-388-9915.

## BUSINESSES

Becker Insurance Agency  
Camp Birchwood  
Clearwater Lodge  
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness  
Gunflint Lodge  
Gunflint Northwoods Outfitters  
Gunflint Lake Property Owners  
Gunflint Trail Excavating, LLC  
George Humphrey Contracting  
Hungry Jack Outfitters  
Hungry Jack Lodge  
Loon Lake Lodge  
Loons Nest  
McCarthy Duffy LLP  
Sivertson Gallery  
Way of the Wilderness Outfitters

## INDIVIDUALS

Sue Abrahamson  
Kip and Leanne Adams  
Mary and Rollie Adkins  
David and Katie Alexander  
Don and Ginger Alexander  
Forrest Amundsen  
Jay and Tamera Andersen  
Arthur Anderson  
Jane Anderson and William Wittman  
Melissa Anderson and Tom Schank  
Warren Anderson  
Melinda Antisdell and John Firman  
Jim and Judy Arnold  
Kay Bach  
Doodie Backstrom  
Pamela and Richard Backstrom  
Bob and Sharon Baker  
Robert M Baker  
David and Nancy Bargaen  
Gerri Barosso and Jim Borden  
Marlys Barry  
Richard Bartell and Mary Kay Palmer  
Dan and Teresa Baumann  
Irene and John Baumann  
Anne and Henry Bent  
Carol and David Berg  
Janis Berman  
Ken Berzinski  
Bud and Patti Beyer  
Ann and Larry Bick  
Jan and Ron Birr  
Harold and Jenny Bitter  
Liz and Tim Blore  
William Boissenin  
Donn and Vicki Boostrom  
William and Raynette Bosshardt  
Caroline and Martin Both  
Barb and John Bottger

Becky Bridgeman and Mike Johnson  
James and Janice Brock  
Diane and Kenny Brown  
Brett Bruininks  
Robert and Susan Bruininks  
C. E. Buchwald  
Myron Bursheim  
Sue Langston Butcher  
Janet Butler  
Arden and Carol Byers  
Katherine Cady  
Jerry and Sharon Caple  
Ron Caple and Abett Icks  
Ann and Bob Carlson  
Roy Carlson  
Robert and Helen Carter  
Dennis and Mickey Chick  
Judith Christensen  
Barbara Clark  
Kris and Richard Clark  
Stephan Clark  
Tim Clifford  
Joan Foster Clyborne  
Jeannine and Michael Coe  
Mary Connell  
Richard Cronstrom  
Dalton Crum  
Bob and Kitty Dail  
Cheryl Hedstrom Dailey  
John and Claudia Daly  
Bud and Ruth Darling  
Diana Dean and David Lipset  
Ann Delorey and Chuck Kleymeyer  
Heather Derewenko  
Bill Dilley  
Carolyn Dilley  
Bill and Sue Douglas  
Gena Doyscher  
Katie Dressel and Todd Petzel  
Staci Drouillard  
Doris and Richard Durey  
Elizabeth and Les Edinger  
Jim and Judy Edlund  
Kyle Edlund  
Ruthie and Steve Edlund  
Bob and Cornelia Einsweiler  
Carol and Dean Einwalter  
Paul Eklund  
Phyllis and Vern Eklund  
John and Sharon Eliassen  
Bill Erickson and Sandy Louis  
Cheryl Erickson and David Tyacke  
Elaine Erickson  
Patty Evers  
Emilie Falc and Jay Kohner  
Judy and Richard Falc  
Steve Farver and Eric Lindberg

Mike and Patty Feeney  
Carol and Tony Feiock  
Richard Fink  
James Finnegan  
Jan and John Finnegan  
Frank and Natalie Firestone  
Dan and Diane Fitzgerald  
Al Flieder  
Bruce and Mary Kay Forland  
Leonard and Roberta Forss  
Jean and Robert Foster  
Eric Fournier and Kathy SchAAF  
Dottie Frank  
Betty French  
Bart and Lynn Galle  
Dorothy Galle  
John and Suzanne Gappa  
Dave and Jan Gerkenmeyer  
Carole and Don Germain  
George and Lou Ellen Gilbertson  
Dick and Kris Gillespie  
David and Rosemary Good  
John Gorski and Sue Hakes  
Chuck and Gayle Gould  
Barbara Graham  
Douglas and Linda Graham  
Karen and Tim Grangaard  
Michele and Rob Graves  
Janet and John Green  
Dianne Greenley  
Dennis and Louise Griffin  
Thomas Griffin  
Bea Griffis  
Cary Griffith and Anna McCourt  
Joe and Margie Grinnell  
David Grinstead  
Mike Gulden and Jackie Nelson  
Bonnie and Steve Hagen  
Anne Hahn  
Michael Halla  
Dorothy and Ivan Hand  
Jay and Madge Hanson  
Carol and Pete Harris  
Delpha and George Harris  
Emily and Jed Harris  
David and Donald Harvey  
Duane Hasegawa and Barb Heideman  
Mary and William Hatfield  
Homer Hauke  
Diane and Thomas Hayden  
Thelma Hedstrom  
Becky and Charlie Helbling  
Dan and Irene Hellie  
Carol and Gary Hemphill  
Betty and Ron Hemstad  
Linda and Tom Hendrickson  
John and Julie Henricksson  
Keitha and Douglas Herron  
Axie and Darwin Hindman  
Kristen and Tim Hobday

Betty and Tom Holman  
Dean Holzman and Bonnie Morris  
David and Meredith Homans  
Theresa and William Hosfield  
Ina Huggenvik  
Anita and Robert Hupfer  
Charles and Mary Hussman  
Robert Hyatt  
Terri Hyzer  
Ada Igoe and Andy McDonnell  
Mary and Peter Igoe  
Cynthia and Robert Ilg  
Austin and Mary Indritz  
Howard and Juanita Jaenson  
Colleen James  
Martha James and Mike Myszewski  
James and Margit Jamieson  
Carla and Keith Jentoft  
Bev Johnson  
Bradley and Katie Johnson  
Dale and Janice Johnson  
David and Jo Ann Johnson  
Diane and Michael Johnson  
Jayne and Rick Johnson  
Joanne and Paul Johnson  
Marjorie Johnson  
Nancy and Robert Johnston  
Jim Joy  
Christine Justice  
John and Susan Karpicke  
Louis Keeseey  
Kim Keeseey Mercer  
Kate and Paul Kelnberger  
Susan Kelnberger  
Bruce and Sue Kerfoot  
Art and Beth Kidd  
Clifford Kiracofe  
Craig and Elizabeth Kirchhoff  
Bill Kirkpatrick and Anna Nekola  
Craig Knudsen  
BJ and John Kohlstedt  
Connie Koppenhaver  
JoAnn and Larry Krause  
Bonnie Kreatz  
Alice Krull  
Beverly and Richard Lachenmayer  
Rita LaDoux and Paul Swedenborg  
Henry Lammers  
Kathy and Mike Lande  
Mark Lande  
David and Kathleen Larson  
Don and Eleanor Lease  
Joyce and Tom Leddy  
Rebecca Lee and Jack Thiel  
Jim and Sharlene LeTourneau  
Lynnette and Peter Leuty  
Peter and Roma Leuty  
Mary Levey  
Gay Lynne Liebertz  
Nan Lightner  
Beverly and Kenneth Lind  
Maxene and Roger Linehan

Karen and Mark Linne  
Dave and Janet Little  
Bruce and Rose Loerzel  
Bob and Karen Lohn  
Joan Lonsbury  
Andy and Dian Lopez  
Dick and Jean Lynch  
Carol Lyon  
Danna MacKenzie and Jack McDonnell  
Hugh and Nancy Magill  
Marti Marchino  
Teresa Marrone  
Caroline and Dan Mason  
Dixie Matijasevich  
Jackie and Jay Matthiesen  
Alex and Sharon Matusevicius  
Susan and Tom May  
Frank and Ruthann Mazrim  
Dorothy McConville  
Bette McDonnell  
Maggie and Tim McDonnell  
Keith Merrifield  
Deborah Mielke  
Forest Miles  
Carol and Peter Miller  
Jack and Karen Miller  
Linda Miller  
Ruth Mills  
Marveen and Robert Minish  
Joyce and Richard Minnick  
Bill and Pamela Mittlefehldt  
Sandy Monette  
Larry Montan  
Letitia Morris  
Bob and Susan Morrison  
Cherlyn and Jim Morrison  
Becky and Pete Moskos  
Helen Muth and David Quick  
Pr. Ham and Pearl Muus  
Gwen and Mason Myers  
David Nassar and Mary Pellowski  
Sandra Nekola  
Carol Nelson  
Dan Nelson  
Diane Nelson  
Doug Nelson and Cheri Olson  
Margaret Ann Nelson  
Viola Nelson  
Earl and Nancy Niewald  
Donna and Keith Nord  
Charles and Mary Norman  
Ann and John Norton  
Phyllis Noyes  
Don and Elizabeth Oberdorfer  
Nancy and Terry Olmem  
Al Olson  
Kay and Robert Olson  
Mary and Warren Olson  
Phyllis Olson  
Barb and Bob Omoth  
Irina and Peder Otterson  
Jerry and Maureen Pearo

Janet Pearson  
Dawn and Ernest Peaslee  
Lorraine M. Pedersen  
Harvey and Joan Perusse  
Craig and Diane Peterson  
Fern and Todd Peterson  
Robert Peterson  
Martha and Paul Plapp  
Amy and John Poehlman  
Daryl and Laura Popkes  
Jean and Tom Probst  
Mike and Sue Prom  
Elvy Proper  
John and Judy Quaiife  
Raymond Raiho  
Kathryn and Stephen Ramberg  
Krin and Peter Rauen  
Sam and Sue Reipas  
Emily Reuter  
Andrea Rhame  
George Rhodes  
Darold and Martha Rosbacka  
Betty and Philip Rummel  
Ken and Nat Rusk  
Mary Russ  
Judy and Tom Saeger  
Jim and Pat Sanders  
James and Jenn Sandrock  
Ruth and Steve Saunders  
Jon and Laura Savin  
A. Paul and Carol Schaap  
Larry and Sue Schei  
Susan Scherer  
Donald and Susan Schliep  
John and Rosemary Schloot  
Susan Schnackenberg  
Bob and Jane Schneeweis  
Bill Schnell  
Audrey and Ernie Schroeder  
Lisa and Mark Schroeder  
Tersenia Schuett and Keith Wendt  
David and Nancy Seaton  
James Seitz  
Robert and Sharon Selness  
Colleen and Steve Semmer  
Phil and Rhoda Serrin  
Arlen and Shirley Shanblott  
Ned Shepard  
James Sherman  
John and Phyllis Sherman  
Phyllis and Roger Sherman  
Corrine and Joe Sierakowski  
John Silliman  
Cindy and Stuart Skrien  
Rolf Skrien  
Marilyn Sly  
David Smith  
Fran and Fran Smith  
Saralyn Smith Collingwood  
Ken and Pam Spangler  
Peter Spink  
Chris and Lynne Steele

Calvin Stevens  
 Heather and Tom Stirratt  
 Jim and Valerie Stortz  
 Bobbi and Robin Strangfeld  
 Bill and Sandra Struve  
 Bill and Pat Sueppel  
 Karmel and Tom Sueppel  
 Cher and Jim Sulerud  
 Ron and Sue Sutphin  
 Doug and Jan Swanson  
 Robert Swanson  
 Liz Swedberg  
 Bob and Mary-Kay Swenson  
 Dale and Yvonne Swenson  
 Harriet Boostrom Taus  
 Bob and Peg Telander  
 Gerald and Margaret Thilmany  
 James and Teresa Thomas  
 Barb and Mark Tibbetts  
 Denise and Patrick Tillges  
 Bob and Gail Toftey  
 Christine Tooley  
 Constance and Dennis Tooley  
 Dave Truehart  
 Greg and Mary Truex  
 Douglas Turner  
 Barb and Dave Tuttle  
 Doug and Ginny Tuttle  
 Linda and Oz Twedt  
 Leroy and Nancy Ullrich  
 Michael and Sally Valentini  
 Jone and William VanVleet  
 Norma Vincent  
 Brian Wagner  
 Lisa Wagner  
 Eleanor Waha  
 Bruce and Ritalee Walters  
 Kim Watson  
 Roy Watson  
 Gracy Waugh  
 Jon Weber and Jean Laing-Weber  
 Suzanne Weber  
 Alice Weck  
 Don and Leny Wendel  
 Linda and Randy Werkheiser  
 Carol and Philip Westbrook  
 Ruth Westby  
 Evelyn and John Wick  
 Jim Wiinanen  
 Dyke and Katie Williams  
 Bob Witt  
 Robert Wolf  
 Jim and Sandy Wolfe Wood  
 Bob and Patricia Wood  
 Larry Wooding  
 Janice Wright  
 Barbara and Ted Young  
 Pat and Tom Zeiler  
 Barbara and Warren Zemke  
 Jeanne and Jeff Zlonis  
 Michael and Sheralyn Zlonis  
 Lee Zopff

## WE'LL SEE YOU SOON: 2013 GTHS SPECIAL EVENTS

Soon the Gunflint Trail will come alive again as our members and friends return. We promise to bring you a summer packed full of enjoyable activities. The Gunflint Trail Historical Society Board of Trustees wants to thank many of our outstanding Gunflint friends and volunteers who make these events possible for everyone to enjoy.

Of course the summer wouldn't start off right if not for the annual Fish Fry fundraiser on the grounds of the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. The Fish Fry starts at noon on Monday, June 17. Invite your neighbors and friends. There is a suggested donation for the meal.

The Hungry Jack Lake Home Tour last fall proved such a success that we are conducting another tour of cabins this July on Clearwater Lake. The planning committee is still in the preliminary stages of developing this event. As more details are finalized, a limited number of tickets will be made available to GTHS members.

The Gunflint Trail Historical Society announces its first annual chamber music concert with residents and guests of the Gunflint Trail to benefit the work of the Society. "The Gunflint Woods, Winds & Strings" will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 17 at the new Schaaap Community Center adjacent to Fire Hall #1 at Poplar Lake. Several of our members have recruited some very talented Trail residents and guests to entertain us on a summer Saturday afternoon. The performers will collaborate on classical chamber music around a nature theme. Tickets can be purchased at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center in the weeks leading up to the concert.

*Photo below: This family visited Chik-Wauk one autumn morning last year.*



*A wide selection of delicious pies was available at last summer's pie and ice cream social. Don't miss out on this tasty tradition!*

*This year's social will be held September 1 at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center.*

*Photo by Finn Garry.*

Once again, Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center will host an Old Fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social on the front porch and grounds on Sunday, September 1, Labor Day Weekend, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Suggested donation for pie, ice cream, and beverage. The day also features the annual Chik-Wauk "sidewalk" sale which offers steep discounts on many gift shop items. It'll be a fun way to wrap up the summer and say "so long till next year" to many of our friends and neighbors.

All events are subject to change and more details of the events will be made available at our membership meetings and on the GTHS website.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and friends at each event. All proceeds will be used for the continued expansion and improvement of Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center.

*Sally Valentini, Events Chair*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: A 1917 CANOE TRIP ON THE GUNFLINT TRAIL

Dave Battistel, a Thunder Bay, Ontario native whose hobby is researching the Port Arthur, Duluth, and Western Railroad, recently gave me an article from *Outing Magazine*, April 1918. It tells of a canoe trip eight men made in 1917 starting at the South Brule River and traveling to Brule, Ham, Gunflint, Rose, and Clearwater Lakes before ending back at the South Brule River. Both the story and the pictures were fascinating.

The trip was made in September. The eight men had three canoes and 700 pounds total of gear. They spent a total of six days on the water, traveling 105 miles. While some of the portages are familiar to us today — such as Stairway Portage between Rose and Duncan Lakes — others, like the three-mile portage between Cross River and Gunflint Lake, have been replaced by roads. Several pictures are easily identified, such as the one of the rapids between Little Gunflint and Little North Lakes.

Just reading of the day they portaged to Gunflint made me tired. They started early in the morning. The three-mile portage was accomplished by carrying a load for nine minutes and then walking back for the next load for three minutes. It took five hours to get everything and everyone over the portage. The writer said what hurt the most was your feet because of all the walking with a load on rocky paths. He also said that part of the portage was on the old railroad bed of the Port Arthur, Duluth, and Western Railroad. Today, this bed is known as the Gunflint Narrows Road.

After a short stop at Gunflint for a swim, the party continued on to their destination that night at the North Lake Ranger Cabin. It was a four-hour paddle. That cabin is no longer standing but Bruce's parents used to put guests in there while it was still in good condition in the 30s. Even in 1917, it had a telephone, but the line was out when this canoe party came through. Because of the relative luxury at the ranger cabin, they spent an extra day there.

The next day they traveled to a cabin on Clearwater Lake. The canoes were left on Clearwater and the men spent the last day walking to the South Brule to get a



*The canoe country of the Gunflint Trail has captivated visitors and residents alike for more than a century. Photo by Katie Lush Burns.*

ride to town. It was only a matter of 15 miles. The writer says, "It is impossible to depict the charm of that forest trail."

In spite of the difficulty of the trip, the writer clearly enjoyed the experience. The woods and waters that today's canoeists love captured him too. He wanted to come back again to see the country in every season of the year. Some things never change.

*Do you have a historical Gunflint Trail story you'd like to share with the Gunflint Trail Historical Society membership? We welcome submission of articles for the Gunflint Times about Gunflint Trail characters, the story of your Gunflint Trail cabin, a memorable Gunflint Trail canoe trip or event, and other topics pertinent to Gunflint Trail history. Articles should be no more than 500 words in length and can be submitted by email to [info@gunflinttrailhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@gunflinttrailhistoricalsociety.org), or via regular mail to Gunflint Trail Historical Society, 28 Moose Pond Drive, Grand Marais, MN 55604. Please submit any photographs relevant to your story with your article.*

*Sue Kerfoot, Historian*

## GUNFLINT TRAIL RESIDENT PAGES

Gunflint Trail history is constantly evolving and if you're a Gunflint Trail resident — past, present, seasonal or full-time — you're part of that history. Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center collects the stories of Gunflint Trail residents in its Resident Book, located in the Chik-Wauk reading corner.

If you're a new Gunflint Trail resident or if you just never got around to submitting your Gunflint Trail history to this important collection, we hope you'll consider sharing your story with Chik-Wauk visitors. To be a part of the Resident Book, we ask that interested individuals submit a 1-5 page narrative of their life on the Trail along with at least two photos. Chik-Wauk volunteers then use the material from your submission to generate a page of the Resident Book.

To start the process of having your story at Chik-Wauk, please complete the "History of Gunflint Trail Residents" form. You'll find a printable form online at <http://www.gunflinttrailhistoricalsociety.org/links.html> or you can pick one up at the museum. Remember — today's events are tomorrow's history.



## 2012 SPECIAL EVENT: HUNGRY JACK LAKE CABIN TOUR

In 2011, Lee Zopff, the Queen Bee in the hive of fundraising activity on the Gunflint Trail, came up with the idea of a cabin tour fundraiser for the GTHS. Early last summer, Lee made that idea a reality when she chaired a committee to put together the first GTHS historic home tour. Along with worker bees Judy Edlund, Barbara Bottger, Linda Hendrickson, Phyllis Sherman, Sally Valentini, and many other volunteers, the first cabin tour was held on Hungry Jack Lake on Saturday, September 8, 2012.



*A scene from last year's Hungry Jack Lake historic home tour. Photo by Phyllis Sherman.*

Ticket sales were limited to 60 GTHS members to avoid overcrowding in the cabins. Due to homeowners' concerns about opening their cabins to the public, the home tour was not publicly advertised. A ticket price of \$30 per person and limited admission restricted the event's fundraising potential. Instead, this first cabin tour was a cultural event for the GTHS members, allowing them to learn about the history and early settlers of the Gunflint Trail and Hungry Jack Lake.

Ten cabins, built between 1923 and 1950 were featured. Most of the cabins were built by craftsmen and trapper-guides of the era, such as Bob Zimmerman, Clarence "Peanuts" Wheeler, Billy Needham, and Jimmy Dunn. One of the cabins was hand built by the grandparents of the present owner. Visitors found it interesting to see how the unique historical features of each cabin were maintained even though all cabins had been modernized.

Unlike a house tour in an urban area, this endeavor had the challenges of dealing with small interior spaces, narrow roads, limited parking and how exactly to transport



*GTHS member guests arrive via pontoon boat at one of the cabins on Hungry Jack Lake. Photo by Phyllis Sherman.*

visitors to the sites. The tour started at Swanson's Lodge, where guests checked in and were presented with an informative brochure about each of the cabins they would be visiting. Guests were then transported to the first cabin by pontoon boats furnished by Hungry Jack Lodge. From there, Hungry Jack Outfitters and Clearwater Lodge provided vans to move visitors between cabins.



*Lee Zopff and Sally Valentini work the front desk at Swanson's Lodge. Photo by Phyllis Sherman.*

The movement went fairly well throughout the cool, drizzly afternoon and with some last minute improvisations provided by Michael Valentini and Company, the first cabin tour was deemed a success and a lot of fun. There are copies of the home tour brochure available in the reading corner at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. Hopefully, in the future there will be more opportunities to visit cabins on other lakes.

*Phyllis Sherman and Barb Bottger, Trustees*

## GUNFLINT TRAIL EXPLORERS

We're excited about our new interpretive program: "Gunflint Trail Explorers – Wild in the Woods."



"Water, Water, Everywhere," "Hop to It!," "Timber!!!," Voyageurs," and "Becoming a Wildlife Detective." Sound intriguing?

These are just a few of the family-focused, self-guided interpretive activities in the new Gunflint Trail Explorers program. Bring your kids, grandchildren, and friends. Pick up an activity pack or bin, and learn about the Gunflint Trail while having fun. The activities are a mix of exploration, science, and dress-up. Be prepared to get a little dirty, and maybe a little wet (when you make your own Laurentian Divide).

Everyone participating in an activity receives a handmade journal to record their "findings" and take home. The loon cam (which can be seen online at: [www.chikwauk.com/gallery.php?catid=8](http://www.chikwauk.com/gallery.php?catid=8)), weather station, indoor games, field guides, children's books, and new website are all part of the new program.

Gunflint Trail Explorers is funded by a National Scenic Byway Grant.

*Suzanne Weber, Member*

## HISTORIC GUNFLINT TRAIL ENTRANCE SIGNS GET A FACELIFT



In 1938, two signs were erected at the entrance to the Gunflint Trail. One is of a Voyageur with a canoe and the other a bear in a boat. Those signs still exist today and now stand at the same location in front of the public library in Grand Marais. Unfortunately, they have fallen into disrepair and are now becoming more of an eyesore than a welcome to the Trail. Last summer the Gunflint Trail Historical Society undertook the task of reviewing the work needed to restore them, gather bids and fundraise for this very worthy project.

Currently, the GTHS is working with the Cook County Historical Society to jointly seek the needed funding to bring these historic signs back to their near-original glory. With a budget of about \$7500, we are on our way to making this a reality.

These beautiful welcome signs are truly a piece of Americana located right here in Grand Marais that deserve our attention. Anyone that has visited Grand Marais has certainly seen these signs and have likely had their picture taken with them.

Hopefully, work will begin this spring (dependent upon fundraising and weather) and completed by June 21, 2013. That's next month!

Let's pull together and gather the funds needed. Won't you please consider a donation? Even the smallest donation will make a difference and you will feel good knowing YOU were a part of saving and preserving a piece of our local history.

*John Schloot, Trustee*

*For 75 years, the bear in a motorboat and voyageur signs in downtown Grand Marais have provided many visitors with their first taste of Gunflint Trail culture. The GTHS is coordinating a refurbishment of the signs.*

Donations can be made online at [givemn.razoo.com/story/Gunflint-Trail-Entry-Sign-Repair](http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Gunflint-Trail-Entry-Sign-Repair) or by mailing a check directly to: Gunflint Trail Historical Society, Sign Repair Fund, 28 Moose Pond Drive, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Gunflint Trail sign repair project so far: Michael Anderson, Susan Antes, Curtis Ash, Buck Benson, Stephan Clark, David Eckhoff, Emilie Falc, Dale Gehring, Mimi Gentz, Rosemary Good, Cynthia Hayden, Daniel Helmersen, Theresa Henehan, James Joy, Mary Jo Lewis, Joni Kristenson, Jean Laing-Weber, David McElroy, Dan Nelson, Mark Olinger, Mary Posner, Ann Possis, Craig Samson, Kathy Schaaf, John & Rose Schloot, Ken & Pam Spangler, Kim Spangler, Teresa Thomas, Oz & Linda Twedt, Matthew Wiemer, Pamela Zalesky.

## INCREDIBLE EXCHANGE

Last summer, Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center participated in the Incredible Exchange program sponsored by Cook County Community Education. This program pairs youth ages 11-15 with a nonprofit in the community. From June - August, these youth volunteer 25-50 hours at the nonprofit and develop work and people skills. In exchange for their labor, the youth are awarded a credit for a cultural offering in the community, such as a class at the Grand Marais Art Colony or North House Folk School, a ski pass to Lutsen Mountains, or music lessons.



*Photo by Finn Garry.*

Last year, our 12-year-old Incredible Exchange student, Finn, assisted with everyday operations at museum including greeting and assisting visitors, helping with the gift shop and more. Finn's especially passionate about photography; you'll notice some of his photos throughout this issue of the *Gunflint Times*.

We hope to be paired with a new Incredible Exchange student this summer. If you notice a youth wearing a neon green "Incredible Exchange" shirt during your visit to the museum, be sure to say "hi" and thank them for their great work.



# THE GUNFLINT TRAIL *Historical Society*

28 MOOSE POND DRIVE  
GRAND MARAIS, MN 55604

GUNFLINTTRAILHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

CHIKWAUK.COM

## VOLUNTEER AT CHIK-WAUK

Although we've expanded the staff at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, volunteers remain as important as ever. The additional staff member lessens the need to find volunteers over the weekends, when many Gunflint Trail community members are busy with family, friends, and special events. However, we still hope to have at least one volunteer at the museum most days of the week, serving as docents, cashiering, and providing other invaluable assistance.

This year we'll be experimenting with using Volunteer Spot, an online scheduler, to organize and schedule Chik-Wauk volunteers to try to cut down on the amount of emails volunteers receive from us. Visit our Volunteer Spot at <http://vols.pt/5gLhQ8> to start signing up for Chik-Wauk volunteer shifts. You'll need to provide your email address, but you do not have to create an account to use Volunteer Spot. The program allows you to see which shifts are already taken and will even send you an email reminder the day before your shift. If you're not tech savvy, you can always sign up for a shift in person at the museum, by calling the museum at 218-388-9915, or sending an email to [info@chikwauk.com](mailto:info@chikwauk.com).

### SEASON PREP VOLUNTEERING

**Gift Shop Prep** If you'd like to assist with pre-season gift shop pricing and organizing, please feel free to swing by the museum anytime between 10 a.m.-3 p.m., May 15-17 and 20-22. No need to sign up. We'll provide beverages and cookies.

**Spring Cleaning** Thursday May 23, 10 a.m. until we're done. Get Chik-Wauk into shipshape for opening day. Volunteers vacuum, dust, wash windows, and more. Many hands make light work. Beverages and cookies will be provided.

Interested in volunteering at Chik-Wauk, but not sure what it entails? Attend a volunteer training session this summer to learn about volunteer opportunities at Chik-Wauk. Sessions will be approximately an hour in length and will provide an overview of Chik-Wauk volunteer duties and answer any questions you may have.

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSIONS

Thursday, June 13, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 11, 1:30 p.m.

*Ada Igoe, Manager*

## ADMISSION CHANGES

Last October, the GTHS board voted to slightly change admission charges for Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. Beginning this season, admission charges will be: \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 5-18, and children under 5, free. GTHS members still visit the museum free of charge by showing their membership cards at the museum front desk when they visit.

Members should use the admission tickets included in their membership renewal thank you letters for their guests. GTHS member guests simply present these tickets at the museum front desk to receive free admission; a GTHS member does not need to accompany guests to validate tickets. Additional guest admission tickets can be purchased from the Chik-Wauk front desk for \$2 each. Alternatively, GTHS members who have used all of their complimentary admission tickets can simply pay \$2 for each guest they bring to the museum. As always, there is no charge for hiking or picnicking on Chik-Wauk's grounds.