



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 – Fall 2010

Jim “Gyro” Coakley, Director of Alumni Relations, Editor

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## Fall 2010 News

Back when I started at Pathfinder, the camp season ended on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The campers used to board the train, later the bus, and went home. A group of staff would stay for a few days closing up the island for the winter. Winter, of course, was more than three months away.

In the early 1970’s, Swifty and Roy ran a ten-day camping experience for boys from western New York, in conjunction with the Clover Farms Chain of Convenience Stores. In the 1990’s, Mac revived the out-of-season use of the facilities, hosting students from Elmwood Franklin school where he taught science. The Pathfinder Island experience was tailored to boys and girls taking a week’s field trip. In those years, winter weekend trips to camp were a big hit with summer boys from Rochester and Buffalo.

When Glenn and Sladds took over the camp, autumn programs became a real focus. This year, for example, four groups from the Nichols School, the Allendale Columbia School, and Elmwood Franklin School made their annual September trips to Pathfinder, exploring Algonquin Park day to day as part of the camp’s formal outdoor education program.

In addition, four special events were held on Pathfinder Island this year:

**Family Camp:** This year’s Family Camp was hosted by Glenn Arthurs. The long weekend is a great opportunity for current campers to introduce their families to Pathfinder activities. Prospective campers and their families attend to get a taste of camp. Other families include former campers who were not able to attend this year, but wanted to have a short camp experience. Next year’s Family Camp is set for August 20-22, 2011.

**Diane Davis and Will Hopkins Wedding Ceremony and Reception:** Diane Davis, whose family is long-time Source Lake Cottagers, and Will Hopkins, with 19 summers as camper and staff member, selected Pathfinder Island as the venue for their wedding ceremony and reception. The campers left early Friday morning in dense fog. By the time guests arrived in mid afternoon, Pathfinder was under sunny skies, with barely a ripple on the lake, and the Pathfinder staff had transformed the island into a spectacular wedding venue. Saturday brought scattered showers, but the rain held off for the wedding ceremony at the Jean Norton Memorial Chapel.



Photo by Corey Floyd

The dinner for 170 guests was held in the Dining Hall, and I have never seen the room look better: linen, china, crystal, balsam

boughs and all. Dancing and further celebration was held at the Rec Hall. Sladds thinks we've now hosted over a half-dozen weddings in the last decade.

**Orchard Park Dads and Kids Weekend:** For ten years, Camp Pathfinder has hosted a special Dads and Kids three-day event for folks from Orchard Park, NY. This is another ongoing experience to introduce families from Western New York to our Algonquin location and provide fun Pathfinder activities for all ages. This year was typical: over 100 people crowded onto the island for endless ropes, paddling, hikes, biking, kayaking, archery, one-match fire races, ghost stories, and other recreational activities.

**Eleventh Annual George Liederhaus Memorial Canoe Race:** Trip and Jake Pierson, long-time campers and staff from the Rochester, NY area, organize this weekend, a benefit for the Algonquin Campership Fund. This year's edition attracted 56 guests, all of whom contributed a minimum of \$50 to the fund. Food and accommodations are provided by Pathfinder. Fifteen teams of two set off on Saturday morning for the race "Around the Horn." The first-place finishers, with a time of 1:56.41 were recent alumni Zach Arem and Max Brown. In second place was a team of current staff, Henry Shepley and Charlie Katrycz, with a time of 2:03.50. The third-place finishers were Griff Edwards and Riley Chapel. Held on Thanksgiving Weekend (Canadian), the closing banquet was a traditional turkey dinner, prepared



Photo by Jim "Gyro" Coakley

by the camp chefs Pauline and Fernanda. Lively celebration, Pathfinder stories, and friendly banter went on well into the evening. All told, GLM weekend raises enough money to send a boy to Pathfinder each summer.

## Alumni Profile — Bob Roggow



Photo by Jim Kennedy

Our featured alumnus for this edition of the Alumni Newsletter is **Bob Roggow**. Bob lives with his wife Diane in Longmont, Colorado. He first came to Pathfinder in 1944 as an infant with his parents, Norm and Margaret (Norm was originally hired in 1943 to teach swimming and oversee the swim dock...and soon found out, as many of us did, that his job at Pathfinder was much more than just Director of the swim dock). As a very young child Bob lived in his parent's platform tent behind the PX and moved into Lodge I for MicMacs in 1948 at the age of 4! He claims to have been the longest tenured Mic or Chipp in camp history. He was a camper through 1958. Bob won the Pathfinder Award in his last year as a camper. He became a headman in 1962, the first year that Bill Swift and Frank Horton owned Pathfinder. He became the co-Director of Tripping (with John Leighbody) in 1970 and served in this capacity for several summers during the 1970's, and later

helped on the canoe dock. During various summers in the 1990's and 2000's, he has returned as an Alumni Guest Staff.

Bob's daughter Kristin (former Pathfinder staff), son Mike (camper and staff), stepson Jesse Koss (former camper and staff), and wife Diane (staff) have also enjoyed and benefited from their Pathfinder experiences.

In the off season, Bob has had employment as: a 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Kenmore, NY (1966-1970); School Psychologist in Colorado (1972-1989); and Director of Special Education in Longmont, Colorado (1989-2002). After retiring in 2002, he has traveled, most notably by canoe with Glenn Arthurs (Pathfinder co-owner), Pathfinder staff, and AAs to James Bay. In addition, he and his wife Diane have traveled to other places around the world. Bob has two grandsons (both age 3) and daughter Kristin is expecting the first granddaughter in November 2010. Bob spends his time connecting with friends and relatives, including Pathfinder friends, recreation activities, and volunteering. I caught up with Bob at a weekend party in Maine on Halloween weekend. Fourteen headmen, from the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's, were entertained by Bob's reminisces of his early days at Pathfinder, and his more recent Pathfinder experiences.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturn Club Reunion:** The eleventh annual Autumn Reunion has been scheduled for Saturday, November 27 at 1:00 PM. The Arthurs and Sladdens host this event at the Saturn Club of Buffalo for Pathfinder Camper families, staff members, alumni, and friends. A number of current staff and recent staff attend. As ever, plenty of food, friends, and film (pictures and videos of the summer fun) are on hand. Alumni are welcome at this gathering, AND to linger for a special alumni cocktail gathering at 4:00 PM, after the family program. Hear and see from the owners and staff what Pathfinder is up to as the 100th Anniversary approaches. RSVP by calling Sladds in Rochester at 575-249-0716, or send him an email at [redcanoes@att.net](mailto:redcanoes@att.net).

**Algonquin Campership Fund:** The Algonquin Campership Fund is a non-profit organization, made up of Camp Pathfinder and Camp Northway alumni, dedicated to camper scholarships for families in need. To learn more about supporting the ACF, please contact Pathfinder's director Mike Sladden, or the Fund's committee chairman, Scott Forsyth. The fund steering committee makes an annual appeal for donations. You should have received this, or will shortly. It is a terrific way to financially support kids to attend Pathfinder or Northway.

## Did You Know?

A small section of the Newsletter for fun facts about Pathfinder:

- Pathfinder maintains an Alumni Data Base of former campers and staff with 637 records. There are 116 of them classified as "lost." That is, we do not have current contact information for them.
- Pathfinder sent 81 canoe trips during the 2010 camp season.
- There are now 24 trip lockers to store all of the tents, packs, and other equipment to support the tripping program.
- The newly renovated swim dock, supported, in part, by the attendees at the 95<sup>th</sup> reunion, was officially opened in early July. Do you know where the original swim dock was located?
- Much of the island remains unchanged from 1960 until today. Other than staff cabins, there are only three buildings that were on the island then, that are no longer with us. Can you name them?