



January 2012

Dear Friends of Nawakwa,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and was able to rest, relax and visit with friends and family. As I was typing this opening sentence, I realized that rest, relax and visit with friends and family is what I do when I spend my week at Nawakwa each summer. Only at Camp I am also able to block out almost all means of electronic communications, have no schedule and limit my responsibilities. Wow, those memories from this summer and past years at Nawakwa linger in my mind and bring a smile to my face whenever I think about those times. I can honestly say that not a week goes by that I don't at least once think about Camp. And, my wife and kids love Camp just as much as I do.

Another aspect of camp that is appealing is the fellowship and community that exists there. I feel that everyone is so friendly and they are watching out for and helping others enjoy their stay. Kirby, the camp counselors, staff members and all the campers contribute to this feeling. As the Y's Impact statement says,

"The Y is, and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities. Every day our impact is felt when an individual makes a healthy choice, when a mentor inspires a child and when a community comes together for the common good."

The Y of Chicago likes what they see at Nawakwa and has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in Camp. Our future is bright and promising - Camp will continue to thrive, improve and be here for future generations. The Nawakwa community is part of a larger community and this year's Faith in Families campaign will focus on community – helping those at Nawakwa as well as those in the larger Y community.....for the common good.

During the next several weeks a Nawakwa volunteer will call you and ask for a contribution to the Faith in Families Annual Support Campaign. Please consider the benefits your contribution will provide and, if possible, think about increasing last year's contribution to help out even more this year. I know our family will strongly consider this. Our campaign goal for 2012 is \$70,000. With your support we will meet this goal. Please consider your contribution carefully when a volunteer contacts you. Thank you for your continued support and for helping make a difference.

Sincerely,

Jim Kordick

Faith in Families Campaign Chair



NAWAKWA NEWS

SLAV-BRO-SKI FAMILIES - IMPACTED OVER 300 CAMPERS AND 12 DOGS



Steve & Lorraine Slaveck Extended Family

Write a feature on our family.....Oh, but where do I begin and how much time does anyone have to read it? When asked if I would share a bit of my family's Nawakwa legacy, it could only be complete by including 40 years worth of coverage on behalf of the entire SLAV-BRO-SKI clan. Not to be confused with Dr. Seuss characters, SLAV-BRO-SKI's are a consolidation of the very closely knit Slaveck, Brodecki and Gorski families who count 4 generations of Nawakwa campers.

It all began in the early 1970's when my Aunt Lorraine Slaveck shaded the truth from her husband about the accommodations (specifically the lack of a bathroom), and convinced my Uncle Steve to take their four boys on a family vacation to YMCA Family Camp Nawakwa. Looking back, it's hard to believe that fishing ultimately trumped the primitive bathroom situation for Uncle Steve, and the Slavecks returned to camp in the summers to come. The Slaveck enthusiasm was contagious, and over the next few years, they convinced

Lorraine's mother, (Grandma Josephine) and her brother, Stan Gorski (my dad), to give Nawakwa a try. Before we knew it their cousin, Gene Brodecki was also coming up with his family.

As teens in the 70's and 80's we SLAV-BRO-SKI cousins banded together like some hybrid concoction of sibling gang members. Through the years we bonded with other long-time camp families . (Wilbur, Voegeli, Neumann, Ganey, Lesatz, Marschke & Clayton to name a few), many who remain a synonym of family to this day. Of course, that could also be the result of a couple of "Love Camp" marriages in our bunch. Rick Brodecki married Beth Wilbur (qualifying the extensive Wilbur clan as "related by marriage"), and Sue Brodecki zeroed in on Jim Wiemeyer (or maybe it was his speedboat) on one of her first visits to camp.

Having spent many of our early years in cabins such as Poplars and the now extinct original Pines cabin, we grew up with very limited vacation expectations when it came to privacy, accommodations, food, comfort....and I should probably add cleanliness to that list. I remember holes in the Pines cabin floor, hearing varmints in the walls (never really determined if they were bats or chipmunks), my sister Amy and cousin Tim playing in the fire pit as if it was a sandbox, stealing each others clothes out of the North Camp showers, and 50 different ways to fix Hamburger Helper on our cabin's tiny stove- fridge contraption.

On the other hand, expectations of fun, camaraderie, music, romance,



Gerri Brodecki & Children

and adventure remained at the top of our list year after year. The entire SLAV-BRO-SKI crew looked for-

ward to campfires, card marathons (occasionally with Grandma Josephine cheating), epic matches of softball and volleyball, hard core triathlon and king-of-the-raft competitions, and canoe trips – or should I say canoe "tips". We still hold elite membership status at the Howard Young Medical Center.

Our skits were legendary (at least in our own minds), with such commanding Slaveck performances as Stanley Letterman and Bat Stan and Bobbin. My mom, Eleanor Gorski, has been celebrating her July birthday at Camp Nawakwa for almost half of her life and continues to "Skip around the Room" with gusto! And to this day, we are still intent on scaring the heck out of any vulnerable youngster who is willing to listen to stories about ghostly lights on the haunted peninsula or who might be walking in the dark between North and South Camp.

Nawakwa has blessed us with so many things: We've seen the resilience and resurgence of nature. Believe it or not bald eagles and loons were not as common a sight back in the 70's. We've had an occasional glimpse of the Northern Lights (no, it was not imagination or lack of sobriety when 7 of us viewed them from a rowboat late one night.) And we've been graced with a slightly better understanding of God and His greatness from views of a spectacular starry Northwoods' sky.

Now, as parents of children who also define Nawakwa as their "favorite place", we have tried to put our fingers on the most magical element. As a child, it is often a place of new, yet safe, independence: venturing for the first time on a trail, swim to the raft,



Stan & Eleanor Gorski Extended Family

canoe ride, or to the end of the dock to fish. It's inter-generational...Where else can you do a skit with your dad and play softball with your grandma? It's the place where we set aside the world's distractions and pretenses of jobs, school, and things, to refresh ourselves and our relationships. Nawakwa is the place where we have had the opportunity to know each other and grow as family.

Over the past 40 or so years, a total of 57 SLAV-BRO-SKI's have participated as Nawakwa campers – some more frequently than others. Sadly, we said good bye to Gerri, our Brodecki matriarch, this past year. We've also determined that as a result of Aunt Lorraine's initiative so many years ago, about 300 people, including her recruits and their recruits (and 12 dogs), have had the Nawakwa experience. Over time, we've made the trek from various parts of the country including, Chicago, Indianapolis, Seattle, Houston and Detroit to be together. We look forward to a continuation of our Nawakwa tradition in this special place where the goodness of family, nature, and spirituality are combined into the most unique treasure. *(Written by Rose Anne (Gorski) Lemke.)*

With tribute to my treasured SLAV-BRO-SKI family –

Slaveck: Steve & Jody, Maxine, Jake; Stanley; Bob & Mary, Aaron, Carly; Tim, Danny, Matt

Brodecki: Alan & Terri, Jenny, Joe, Jackie; Jim & Donna, Stefanie, Rob, Joanna; Sue & Jim (Wiemeyer), Angie, Bianca, Cara; Rick & Beth, Chris, Mike, Julia

*Continued on Page 3
"Slav-Bro-Ski Family"*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2012 Campaign	2
2012 Auction	2
Program Director	2
Directors Corner	3
Cabin Renovations	3
New Programs	3
LDF Family Fun Day	4
Native American Lodge	4
New Equipment	4

2012 FAMILY WORKS DINNER AUCTION FRIDAY OCTOBER 12TH

Join us for the biennial Camp Nawakwa dinner/auction which is scheduled for Friday, October 12th. Time and location to be determined. Every other year, Nawakwa volunteers spend countless hours preparing a fun filled event that attracts approximately 150 participants. The night will be complete with food, drinks, raffle prizes, and auction items. This is a fantastic night out and a great opportunity to meet fellow Nawakwa campers that attend weeks other than your own.



Isaac Johnson Fishing With His Son



"Steer to the Right!"



"We Don't Want to go Home"



"We'll be Back for Dinner"

MATT WHITE: NAWAKWA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

We are happy to announce that Matt White has joined the Nawakwa staff on a year round basis. He is eagerly implementing many fall, winter, and spring program activities, and preparing for the upcoming 2012 summer season. Matt brings to Nawakwa an array of knowledge in many different program activities. He has developed many solid relationships in the local community and brings forth a wealth of knowledge about the Lac du Flambeau culture.

2012 "FAITH IN FAMILIES" CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY \$70,000 GOAL

It's that time of year again! Beginning in January of 2012, many Nawakwa volunteers will begin asking your family for a tax deductible contribution to help benefit Camp Nawakwa. They will be contacting past and present Nawakwa guests as well as vendors by phone or e-mail to ask for financial support. All donors who pledge \$140 or more are recognized on the giving board in South Camp Lodge, and all donors are recognized in S.C. Lodge. Please understand that these people are volunteers and not paid employees. When contacted PLEASE SAY YES!! This year's leadership team includes:



Matt Pitts and His Daughter at the Archery Range

Campaign Chair - **Jim Kordick** (6th year as Campaign Chair)

Board Gifts Co-Chair - **Gregg Bach and Bob Egan**

Chairman's Round Table Co-Chairs (\$1,000 or more Gifts) - **Jim Grover and Tristan Grover**

Community Gift Captains - **Jim Arendt, Debbie Bedell, Becky Clark, Dan Mazur, Linda Neidlinger, Mike Schiller, and Mary Tessitore.**

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The summer of 1995 was my first as Nawakwa's camp director, and we served 276 families. During the 2011 summer season, 402 families attended Nawakwa representing approximately 1,237 individual campers. September and October continue to be busy months. Nawakwa hosted separate family reunions and one wedding during that time. Altogether, just over 1,000 campers attended camp during the fall, winter, and spring. The Bridge Builder was reserved every weekend from the first week of June through the mid week of October and a majority of the weekends in January and February. Every year-round cabin was reserved, during the Christmas break, and winter programs were offered for the first time. Over \$70,000 was pledged to the 2011 annual Faith in Families campaign which was all in part to the success of Nawakwa's dedicated donors and volunteers.

Matt White, who has been Nawakwa's summer program director for the past three summers, has officially joined the Nawakwa staff team year-round and is excited to lead the families in new programs. His knowledge of the Lac du Flambeau culture is helping Nawakwa staff to create stronger relationships with the youth leaders of the community. Nawakwa has made great strides since operating as a summer only operation.

It's important that I continue to thank the Nawakwa advisory board of directors for all their dedication and generous support for leading the "Nawakwa Family Camp



"Queen of the Wooooooorld!"

Charge." This group of volunteers are the silent leaders who help to advise and council the camp staff, and are intelligent forward thinking individuals, who carefully help to plan camps future and monitor its growth.

By the 2012 summer season, the "Y" of Chicago will have invested over \$400,000 in one year towards Nawakwa's capital improvements that are highlighted in this newsletter. With over 180 acres and over 40 buildings, there will always be deferred maintenance and depreciated facilities that will be in need of repair.

Although we have focused on many building projects over the years, the Nawakwa staff are discussing new marketing strategies that will focus on "family relationships" and the "family outdoor experiences." The staff is currently redesigning its summer brochure that will have many photographs focusing on time with family recreating outdoors.

The biennial dinner auction will be taking place on October 12, 2012. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for promotional materials. As we move into the 2012 season, the staff looks forward to visiting with you during your next trip to camp. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Kirby Petersen
Executive Director

SLAV-BRO-SKI FAMILIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Gene & Gerri Brodecki Extended Family

Gorski: Eleanor; Rose Ann & Matt (Lemke), Jenna, Jeremy; John & Nicki, Noah, Natalie; Mary Jo & Dave (Koppenhofer), Grace, Lucas, Harrison; Amy & Ryan (Humphrey) Adam, Eric and Matt.

In Loving Memory of – Lorraine and Steve Slaveck, Stan Gorski, Gene and Gerri Brodecki, and Grandma Josephine Gorski



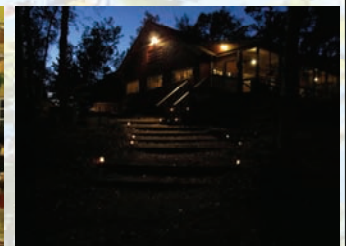
Gorski Grandchildren

Directors Note: Many members of the Slav-Bro-Ski families have supported Camp Nawakwa in both volunteer and donor support through the annual "Faith in Families" campaign, work weekends, dinner auctions, and participation as a board and committee member. Jenna Lemke, daughter of Matt & Rose Anne, was also a camp counselor during the 2011 summer season.

NEW PROGRAMS BEGINNING 2012

Many new program retreats are being offered during the 2012 season which is a great opportunity for families to journey north year round. Some of the activities and dates are listed below. Call the office for more information or visit us on the web at www.nawakwa.com

- Feb 17-20 – Winter Family Camp
- Sept 7-14 – Home School Week
- Sept 28-30 – Women's Wellness Weekend
- Oct 5-8 – Columbus Day Weekend Family Camp
- Oct 19-21 – Teen Fall Harvest weekend
- Dec 27- Jan 1 – Winter Family Camp



South Camp Lodge Transformed for the October Maida Family Wedding

ISLAND, RAVEN, LOON, OWL & POPLARS CABIN REMODELS



In 2011, five cabins were remodeled extensively. Island cabin received a bathroom and an interior makeover. Eagle and Loon received two bedrooms, a 1/2 bath, and interior make over. Owl and Poplars received two bedrooms, a full bath, and interior makeover. Check the cabin availability on the website at www.nawakwa.com



5TH ANNUAL LAC DU FLAMBEAU FAMILY FUN DAY (WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!)



Saturday, February 25, 2012, Camp Nawakwa will host its 5th annual Lac du Flambeau family fun day. In 2011, over 300 participants participated in the day's events. This event is a continued collaborative effort to give back to the local community. Call the camp office to help volunteer for this event.



Early Morning at Nawakwa



A Day at the Beach

PONTOON BOAT RENTAL AND MOTOR RENTAL!

For the second season, Camp Nawakwa will offer rental of a pontoon boat with 40 hp motor and three 9.9 hp four stroke outboard motors. Please call the office at 715.588.7422 to reserve the pontoon boat or a motor. Visit the website at www.nawakwa.com for complete rental information and rates.



"The Chicago Bears in Training"

NATIVE AMERICAN LODGES

Matt White and the Nawakwa program committee are working with Nick Hockings, owner of Waswagoning in Lac du Flambeau, to construct a couple of Native American Lodges on camp Nawakwa's property. The use of the lodges will help the Nawakwa guests become more familiar with the Native American culture. More information will follow as the program unfolds.



Proposed Lodge



Nick Hockings at Work

WINDOWS, FURNITURE, PIERS, MATTRESSES AND MORE

Chicago Metro has been investing funds back into the association centers and camps. These funds have been used to improve the condition of the facilities and grounds. By the summer of 2012 Camp Nawakwa will have completed the following improvements. (Five cabin remodeled, new main water lines, several new roofs, new kitchen tables, new furniture in many cabins, new windows in many cabins, new mattresses in every cabin, new piers throughout camp)



New Water Lines



New Tables in Every Cabin