



# BACK HOME! BOOMDIADA!!!



**Tripper – Fall 2021**  
**CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA**

*Experience*  
**MANITO-WISH**  
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA



# DIRECTOR'S TRAIL

Patrick Soldan, Chief Executive Officer



The busy days of summer have begun their transition to the measured approach of fall. Whether we have known it or not, for the past almost two years (wow!) we all have had to embrace the metaphor of being like water.

We've needed to be fluid to adapt to changing circumstances.

We've needed to flow with purpose and in line with our mission and strategic plan.

We've needed to be transformative and like water – always find a way.

Embracing these principles resulted in the successful return of many things: meals in Nash, island swims, trout lake circles, trips across the country, and bonehead awards. Perhaps the most important return of all, was the return to developing Manito-wish leaders – a return to teaching resiliency, critical thinking, and how to work with one another so that our campers and staff can chart their own path toward improving the world in which they live.

In this return, we heard from so many of you just how much you needed this and the truth is – we needed it too! We are energized by the sights and sounds of a full Camp – laughter that fills the

waterfront, stories told around the campfire, Bunyan breakfasts, and yes – even the challenges of cleaning a washhouse after a rove.

Our gaze now turns to the future and as we do so, we will continue to embrace being like water as we honor our heritage while moving forward with purpose and adapting to serve in an ever-changing world.

As you will read, we are excited to be breaking ground on the Historic Waterfront Restoration Project, to work with Cross Cultural Agility to help inform Camp's work related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, begin recruiting staff for our 2022 season, and to take the lessons learned from this year and apply them to next summer. Demand to return from campers is high and as I write this spaces are filling up quickly for next summer.

Ever present on my mind is all of our dedicated staff who show up every day to pour themselves into this work and how the support from all of you has allowed for these successes to happen. Thank you for your support of this place and the people in it – together we will sustain Camp now and into the future.

The digital version of the Tripper, and the links referred to in articles, may be found online on Camp's website at <https://manito-wish.org/news/tripper>

## MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Tom Basting, Jr., President, Board of Directors



It's hard to believe that 2021 summer camp programming is already behind us. This year marked a successful return across all Manito-wish programming – Leadership, Family Camp, Girls Camp, Boys Camp and Outpost after the unprecedented shutdown of 2020. I am happy to report that Camp's COVID-19 precautions and protocols were successful. And while a year of isolation presented unique challenges to campers and staff this year, no Camp programming was cancelled or otherwise affected, there was zero reported transmission

among campers, and challenges were met with typical Manito-wish resilience. As reported in the news, many other camps were not so fortunate. But as we know at Manito-wish, fortune follows the prepared. Thank you to the Board COVID-19 task force, staff, and families for their care and cooperation in safely managing and navigating COVID-19 so that campers could once again enjoy the Manito-wish experience.

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## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER

November 12-13 Board of Director's meeting

## 2022

April 8-9 Board of Director's meeting

May 28-30 Memorial Day Work Weekend

## MANITO-WISH VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

There's nothing better than a gathering of Manito-wish alumni! Be on the lookout for virtual alumni events by watching the website for announcements, meeting links, and virtual event information. For more information visit our [website](https://manito-wish.org) or contact Camp at (715) 385-2312.

## SHOP AT THE TRADING POST

The Trading Post is your official source for Camp Manito-wish YMCA clothing, books, music, gift ideas and handy staples for camp life. You can buy our most popular items on-line.

Browse around our on-line store on our [website](https://manito-wish.org). Our items are perfect for birthdays, holidays, family celebrations and (of course) Camp!



# CAMP UPDATE



**Ben Hoffman**  
Operations Director

## Operations

If Camp Manito-wish was a wheel, then Operations is the hub that supports the spokes of exceptional and unforgettable experiences for our campers, participants, and staff. We strive for operational excellence in all we do at Camp.

We began our summer with an incredible series of trainings including Wilderness Medicine, Wilderness Water Safety, and Challenge Course Management. All of these trainings, accompanied by our internally led trainings, resulted in a phenomenal round of Outpost trips, Boys and Girls Camp, and Family Camp sessions.

Now that the sounds of camper's singing and laughing have transitioned to song birds and buzzing cicadas, the memories of this year's session will remain as a part of the history of Camp Manito-wish.

## COVID Mitigation Practices

The work and energy our team put into developing our COVID protocols has served us well and our partnership with NOVIR supported the Camp's testing and organizational needs.

Our COVID mitigation strategies will continue into the Fall Programming Season for our Leadership Groups. Our protocols will adjust slightly, but still focus on these five safety measures: 1) Screening of staff and participants, 2) Using strategies that maintain physical distancing, 3) Maintaining diligent hygiene practices, 4) Masking when pods crossover, and 5) Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces to help keep our staff and program partners safe while at Camp.

## American Camps Association (ACA)

I am pleased to report we had a successful ACA visit this summer and will maintain our accreditation. The positive outcomes of this evaluation demonstrate the strength of not only our safety and risk management practices, but also the exceptional condition of Camp property that supports impactful programming for our campers and community.

## Green Team

The Manito-wish Green Team leads our goal of fostering a culture of environmental stewardship in all aspects of our organization. We found success in our 2021 initiatives that focused on maintaining the ecological integrity of our areas of travel through the management of invasive species and the continuation of fostering relationships with land management agencies.

- 1) All trips this summer included intentional checks of equipment to reduce the risk of transferring aquatic invertebrates and plants between habitats.
- 2) Outpost participants took time to write letters to the US Forest Service and National Parks explaining the impact of their trips and their gratitude for the use of public and private lands and waters for their trips.

We look forward to continuing these practices in the future.

## Conclusion

After experiencing a full summer programming season I have felt the power of the Manito-wish experience for both campers and staff. I look forward to the years ahead of maintaining the Operations of Camp. I am grateful to have the support of staff at Camp, the alumni I've met, and the Camp community as we continue to change lives through Camp Manito-wish.



# CAMP UPDATE

"The beauty of challenge and pushing myself physically and mentally was in perfect balance, and it felt like home."  
– Anonymous Summer Camper



**Tracy Watson,**  
Camp Director



**Ally Sheehan,**  
Summer Camp Director



**Laini Wargo,**  
Program Director

It was an amazing feeling hearing laughter through the pines again. Summer 2021 was definitely one for the record books! Even with COVID protocols such as med pass through the Health Center windows, finding alternative routes for our traditional Canadian trips, and having three different dining locations; we were so glad to welcome our kids and staff "back home".

## Leadership

The [Schuler Scholars](#) had three remarkable sessions. They developed their trail skills for a 4-day canoe trip with 100% of Scholars reporting they learned something new, 94% stating they had gained confidence from their experience, and 94% wanting to return to Manito-wish.

One Scholar shared: "I would say camp allowed me to realize that I am capable of taking on the leader role. I never did it at home, but camp gave me a confidence boost."

We are so incredibly grateful for this amazing partnership with the Schuler Foundation and look forward to welcoming more Scholars back next summer!

## Outpost

Our Outpost Program served 168 participants for a total of 36 trips this summer! Although we couldn't venture into Canada, we did have many successes with our alternative routes, especially the Alaskan rivers with our Canucks and Expeditionary Canucks paddling the Sheenjek/Porcupine, Yukon, and Noatak Rivers.

We are grateful for the fantastic returning and new staff to the Outpost this year. New staff came to us from YMCA Camps Widjiwagan and Menogyn as well as New Vision Wilderness Therapy. The integration of new and returning staff allows for deeper learning, teaching, and collaboration that continues to make our program even stronger.

## Summer Camp

The three-week sessions in Summer Camp were a hit, especially for North Enders who wanted more time in Program Areas to develop their skills and passions. The Summer Camp Program was able to build in more trail-skill building so campers could spend more time learning critical technical skills needed to feel confident on the trail. Both staff and campers enjoyed relaxed

schedules, creating meaningful cabin friendships and more quality time at Camp. While spending three weeks with cabin groups due to COVID protocols had its challenges, campers reported one benefit of pod-life included growing closer to their cabin mates. We can't wait for three-week sessions again next year!

## Family Camp

With the implementation of the three-week program, we were able to serve almost 300 people in our Family Camp Programs. The 4-day and 6-day options allowed families variety in the chance to unplug and reconnect with both immediate and extended families. We look forward to serving even more families next summer.

## Summer Conclusion

With the multiple changes our staff and campers faced this year, we did what Manito-wishers do best: plan well, adapt when needed, stay positive, and lead strongly through it all. As my favorite [Quality of a Manito-wish Leader](#) says, "Celebrate Successful Collaborations" and we have a lot to celebrate! Thank you to the entire Manito-wish community for the trust, support, and passion for this remarkable program as well as the incredible seasonal and full-time staff who work so hard to make it happen!

## Fall Season

With Fall approaching, the Program Team is looking forward to an exciting and busy season. We will continue to provide Leadership programming to a number of schools and youth serving organizations through the end of October, closely analyze and review Summer 2021 feedback and reports for future improvements, and attend the Wilderness Risk Management Conference. We will also start **HIRING** for Summer 2022, so if you know someone who has a passion for wilderness tripping, creating welcoming and inclusive spaces for kids, and a great work ethic, please have them visit our [website](#) to start the journey of a lifetime at Camp Manito-wish YMCA!

To sum up the summer I think we call all say it was good to be "back home boom-di-a-da" this summer!



# DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee Report

Committee Members: Tracy Watson & Jeff Pereles Co-chairs, Sean Hurtubise, Ezler Jandrasi, Ansley Laev, Tim Sheehan, Ally Sheehan, Karmen Tornow, Ali Warner, and Quincy Williams

Since the Spring Tripper, the DEI committee has continued working through the 48 total objectives defined under the goals and strategies of the [strategic plan](#).

### Sample of Items Completed Since Spring Tripper:

- Installation of non-gendered restrooms signage and the posting of the maps indicating where the non-gender restrooms are located on Camp property and in Boulder Junction.
- Install Mission, Vision, and Commitment Statements more prominently & permanently in all determined facilities.
- Manito-wish 101-Defining the needs of new staff and participants prior to coming to Camp.

Based upon our progress on our 48 objectives we felt very comfortable engaging [Niambi Jaha-Echols, of Cross Cultural Agility, LLC](#), as a consultant to provide an external audit and assist in creating internal audit procedures.

### Highlights of Outside Consultant Agreement:

1. Support and assistance to the DEI Staff Committee and CEO team by providing the framework to Define, Assess, Commit, Plan, and Implement a comprehensive Cultural Audit.
2. Review ancillary and additional support material to inform the creation of Cross-Cultural Intelligence Assessment tool (CCIA).
3. Create the CCIA to assist in aligning further equity and inclusion initiatives with the organization’s mission, vision, goals, strategies and metrics.
4. Using the CCIA, conduct one-on-one and focus groups with various stakeholders:
  - Board Members
  - Emeritus Board Members
  - Year Round Staff Members
  - Seasonal Staff
  - Camper Parents/School Administrators/Alumni
5. Compile and present findings from the interviews. Begin review of marketing materials, business, policies, and procedures. Specifically to identify potential obstacles, barriers, and/or blind spots to the commitment to equity and inclusion.
6. Conduct site visit(s) to Camp to identify potential obstacles, barriers, and/or blind spots to the commitment to equity and inclusion. Conduct training on-site and/or virtually with year-round staff.
7. Present comprehensive recommendation and detailed project plan.

Here is a small sample of some of those objectives we are working on for completion between now and the end of the fiscal year:

- Review of culturally sensitive songs in the Songbook. We engaged a variety of alumni who have been past song leaders, reviewed each of the songs, and purchased or identified within the songbook the sheet music in the proper keys. We have engaged an outside source to assist in the compilation of the music from the various sources so there is uniformity in design and transposing of a few songs into the keys sung at Camp. Final steps, will be the publishing and developing the processes for how and when we add songs to the songbook.
- Examine and define the barriers of Leadership Program participants and staff (coaches) to joining seasonal Manito-wish staff.
- Review communication/messaging and resources for recruiting staff & campers.
- Review DEI best practices messaging for: Website presence, Social media, Publications, etc.
- Food service-audit of inclusive meals, dietary needs, and trail food.
- Creation of a mental emotional social health (MESH) curriculum and library, which identifies resources, develops training modules, and integrates best practices into staff training and employee toolboxes.
- Creation of a land acknowledgment document and dissemination strategy.

We will be updating the [website](#) as we complete objectives and strategies as well as find more resources, which may be useful to our community.

# RECRUITMENT

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

While most summer jobs offer the promise of a paycheck and nebulous real world experience, at Camp you’ll go several steps further – both in philosophy and actual practice. Through dynamic, exclusive opportunities, you’ll be instrumental in helping youth grow in stature, confidence, and character, shaping them into tomorrow’s leaders. And in the process you’ll gain invaluable skills an unique experiences that will translate impressively to your resume and job search, and help you excel in your future career. Would you or someone you know excel at Camp? Send them our way!”

### Real World Resume Building Skills Learned at Camp:

- Collaborative Leadership & Decision Making
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Organization

### Real Time Fun Had at Camp:

- Paddling the Northwoods Waterways!
- Playing Section Games!
- ROVE!
- Archery, Riflery, Horseback Riding, Mountain Bike Riding, and more!



“I love working at Manito-wish because it’s not your normal summer job. It’s not a boring 9-5 at some restaurant that you dread waking up for every morning. In fact, why use an alarm clock to wake up for a job you really don’t like, when a 10 year old could wake you up with the biggest smile on his face? Working here has been one of the most fun and rewarding experiences of my life.”

Employment opportunities are available in Summer Camp, Outpost, Family Camp and Leadership Programs. Flexible employment contracts are available and can range from as short as three weeks to as long as spring, summer and fall. Competitive wages based on your experience. Contact us for more information: Camp office 715.385.2312 or visit the [website](#) to learn more.

## 2022 Family Camp

Family Camp is a wonderful way to engage the whole family in a Manito-wish experience. If you have a Camper who wants to come to Camp, but is not quite ready for a summer camp 3-week session – this may be the perfect fit for your family.

The summer schedule allows for two Family Camp options during July AND they land over weekends! Join us!

### 2022 FAMILY CAMP SESSION DATES

Session 1 July 12 – 15

Session 2 July 17 – 22

Families live in a cabin, eat great meals prepared by Camp staff, and choose from many different program area activities throughout the day. You are encourage to participate, or simply take the free time you need, when you need it. Family Camp allows families to spend time unplugged from technology, meet other Manito-wishers, and to learn and grow together.

The program will be a combination of planned activities (optional) and free time. Each day, a variety of activities will be offered in the morning, afternoon and evening.

“We choose to attend **Family Camp** because we **love** Manito-wish, and **love** that there is **discovery** and **independence** in a **safe and supportive** environment.”



## Program Activities

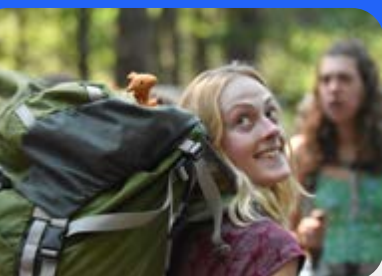
- Sailing
- Nature
- Activities
- Swimming
- Trail Biking
- Archery
- Tennis
- Riflery
- Crafts
- Horseback Riding
- Indoor Climbing Wall
- High Ropes Course
- Canoeing/Kayaking/
- Paddle Boarding

## Family/Group

- Activities
- Square Dance Camp Show
- Mealtimes
- Canoe Sing
- ROVE
- Paul Bunyan Day
- Activities
- Campfire/Square
- Ceremony
- Lunchtime singing
- Teen Hangout

To learn more or to register for 2022 Family Camp, please visit Camp’s [website](#) or contact Camp at 715.385.2312 or [camp@manito-wish.org](mailto:camp@manito-wish.org).









# PROPERTY UPDATE

**Tim Sheehan**, Property Manager

Greetings from the autumn shores of Boulder Lake. WOW – what a great summer it has been! After a year of hard work and rejuvenation, we welcomed the return of campers, participants and staff who brought with them all of the familiar happenings and sounds associated with running a season of Summer Camp, Outpost and Leadership programming to this amazing place called Manito-wish. Now, it is late August, and it is hard to believe that our Boys, Family and Girls Camp sessions have all concluded and the first fall Leadership groups have begun to arrive as I put the final touches to my fall property update. I would be amiss not to mention how absolutely fantastic and wonderful it is to have come to a place in our pandemic world where we were able to invite campers, participants, staff and alumni back to the Boulder Lake property to experience all that Camp Manito-wish YMCA has to offer.

## Memorial Day Volunteer Work Weekend

Back in late May, in true Manito-wish spirit, even with reduced numbers due to the necessity of pandemic precautions, our passionate volunteers came together for an amazing 52nd annual Memorial Day Volunteer Work Weekend. The beautiful weekend weather allowed for the successful completion of project list tasks as everyone worked hard to help prepare the buildings and grounds for our 103rd season of programming. A big thank you to everyone who was able to participate and to those who participated in spirit. We could not do it without you!

## Around the Property

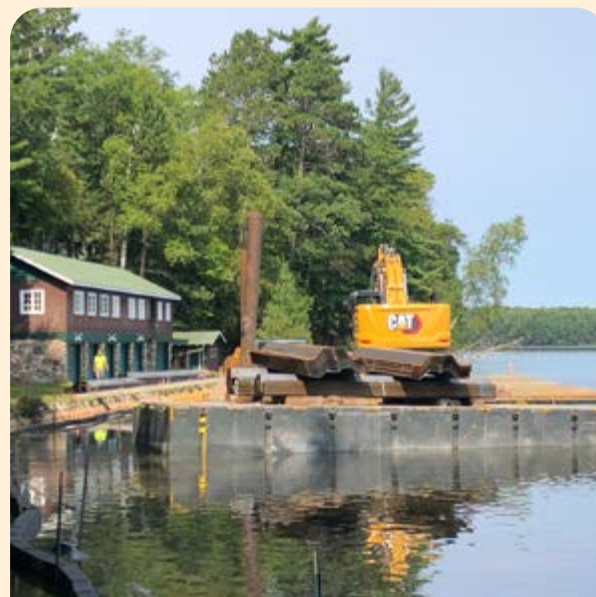
Our amazing property team has been working hard to ensure the buildings and grounds are and continue to remain operational throughout the year. Some highlights of their spring and summer work – water system start-up and testing, buildings and grounds inspections, window screen repairs, HVAC tune-ups and repairs, checking-in and maintaining our fleet of leased vehicles and subsequent maintenance, canoe trailer inspections and repairs, fire safety training, driver and motorboat trainings for our seasonal staff and work order completion, to mention a few. This past summer's programming season truly filled the heart and soul of the members of the Property Team as they worked diligently to help keep the property and its facilities functioning at a high level. I will take this opportunity to thank each of the Property Team members for their commitment to operational excellence as we all care for this amazing property. John, Trish, Jerry, Tony and Dave – your hard work continues to ensure Camp Manito-wish YMCA remain an industry leader and your work is noticed by many and appreciated by all – a heartfelt thank you to each of you!

I would also like to welcome Dave Meyer, our newest staff member, to the Property Team. Dave joins the year around staff as Camp Custodian. Dave moved recently to Boulder Junction from Eagle River and is excited to be part of the team. Please help me welcome Dave to the Camp Manito-wish YMCA family.

Operations in a pandemic world – what an interesting and educational trip it certainly has been. Considering where we were in March of 2020 and where we are today, I find myself feeling humble, proud and thankful for the group of staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure Camp was in the best place possible for the resumption of programming. The upgrades to the HVAC systems, our enhanced cleaning processes (with the daily help of our seasonal staff – thank you all!) and the Nash and MLC dining tents allowed for reduced indoor dining capacities and appropriate physical distancing. The layered "Swiss Cheese" Covid protocols that were created and put into practice worked and continue to serve us well. Thank you to everyone for helping to keep our Camp community healthy!

## Waterfront Restoration

As most of you may be aware, Camp has executed a contract with [Janke General Contractors, Inc.](#) to perform the restoration of Camp's historic waterfront. We are excited to see this historic project come to fruition. A pre-construction site visit occurred in late July to help ensure everyone was on the same page from the beginning and throughout this historical project. Steve Janke, President, Rob Bloch, Janke Superintendent, two MSA representatives and our Owner's Representative, John Mann attended the meeting. With all permits successfully issued, I am very happy to share that the historic project began August 30, 2021. The project is progressing well and is on track for completion by the spring of 2022 and ready for use for Camp's 104th year of programming. Check out this [video update](#) of the project. Expect updates to follow via our website, Facebook, YouTube and email throughout the fall as the project continues. Thank you to all of our passionate donors who have and continue to help turn this historical project into a reality!



## Anticipated Projects

In addition to the historic Waterfront Restoration project, we anticipate much additional work to occur around the property as we prepare for the coming winter season.

In preparation for the future remodeling of the Hamilton restrooms, the old steel septic tanks were properly abandoned and removed from the property. A new septic system (tank and drain field) has been installed and is now completely functional. Next steps will be to redesign and completely remodel the Hamilton restrooms in a way to make them accessible and welcoming to all.

The old, 1954, water tower will be fully decommissioned sometime this winter by Lane Tank Company of Menominee, WI. Lane Tank has taken care of the water tower for as long as I can remember. We are happy to have them take part in the tower decommissioning and removal from the property. Another historic event!

Nasi Construction LLC of Hurly, WI will be on-site this fall to reconstruct three failed chimney chases on Birch Lodge, Portageur and Tall Pines/Eagle Ridge cabins. We anticipate this work to be accomplished before the snow flies. Nasi Construction will also be repairing eleven buildings that sustained damage during a storm that occurred on July 26, in the Boulder Junction area.

Our annual Firewise project will be focused in the near south cabin area this fall. We will continue fuels reduction around the property as well as storm clean up. Great Northern Tree Service has been contracted to help continue our hazard tree removal program in addition to assisting with storm damage clean up.

It was incredibly rewarding to see this amazing property again used for impactful programming that delivers life-changing experiences as our world continues to be in need of confident, responsible and enlightened leaders who will improve the world in which they live. The Manito-wish Experience is alive and well. Thank you to everyone for your passion and continued support of Camp Manito-wish YMCA.







# DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

**Jeff Pereles**, Development Director & **Beth Rondello**, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement

Development is cultivating, stewarding, and honoring our alumni. The next three pages will summarize our alumni outreach, our annual fund drive and major gifts accomplishments in 2021. In the Manito-wish strategic plan, we are charged with “Communicating the Value of a Manito-wish Experience”. From the development approach, you will see how the communication ran very deep and wide to and from the Manito-wish community.

## Alumni Outreach

COVID-19 continued to create its challenges in 2021 for alumni outreach. As in most things, our Manito-wish alumni were up for the challenge. Due to COVID, our Annual Board Dinner morphed into seven Virtual Alumni Tripper Nights between January and April. The seven total tripper nights done regionally were Arizona/California, Washington/Oregon, Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois/Michigan/Iowa/Indiana, Wisconsin, and all other parts of the world! The evening included a presentation on the State of Camp by Patrick

Soldan, CEO, Update on our Diversity Equity, & Inclusion work by Jeff Pereles Development Director, a Property Update by Tim Sheehan, Property Manager, and time for alumni networking lead by Beth Rondello, Director of Annual Giving & Alumni Engagement. In all over 160 alumni participated in these seven events. Virtual Tripper Nights is something we are going to continue along with our in person visits this winter/spring. Be on the lookout for one in your time zone.

On April 1, we were honored to be a part of the Jefferson Sportsman Society (JSS) annual fundraising dinner to raise funds to provide camperships to foster kids from the SOS Children’s Villages of Illinois to attend Manito-wish programs. JSS celebrated its 10th year of providing camperships for kids to come to Camp. Even though the event was virtual, they managed to raise over \$14,000. In the past ten years over \$100,000 has been raised to provide camperships for over 70 kids to attend Manito-wish and for the first time a family participated in Family Camp. They have already set the date for 2022 with the goal of having a virtual component and in person to attract more members and to raise even more funds for camperships. Thank you JSS!

David Jenkins, Manito-wish alum, is collaborating with us to capture impact videos from all our generations of alumni. This compilation will assist us in capturing the value of a Manito-wish experience. We will be utilizing these videos in various marketing/promotions as well as incorporating them into our archive. Some of the questions being captured in the videos are:

- Where did you hear about Camp/How did you get engaged with Manito-wish?
- What does Camp mean to you? Your Family?
- What was the greatest life lessons/skills you learned because of Camp?
- What is your favorite Camp memory?
- What advice would you have for anyone who is considering sending someone or coming to Manito-wish? (Parent/Camper/Leadership Participant?)

If you are interested in more information and would like to participate, contact [Jeff](#), [Beth](#) or [Pat](#).

Lastly, we are continuing to focus on our Alumni Resources and how best to explain the lessons learned by working at Camp as a seasonal staff member and how this experience stays with you throughout your life/career. The Development Committee along with the Staff are working together to link the Seasonal Staff and Alumni through a Manito-wish Mentor/Mentee program. The goal of the program is to connect seasonal staff with alumni who want to share wisdom, life experience, and career advice. If you are interested in finding, out more about this program and would like to be a mentor or mentee contact [Pat](#), [Beth](#), or [Jeff](#).

## Annual Fund Drive

The Annual Fund is in a strong position thanks to generous support from Manito-wish alumni, camper families, friends, staff, parents of staff and business partners.

The Annual Fund Drive is a vital component of the operating budget and represents 10%-12% of our budget. In 2020, we were not able to award Camperships due to the cancellation of programming. Funds, which the donor designated to the AFD for Campership, and the Campership Endowment Funds distributions, were placed in a restricted fund until they can be utilized.



For that reason, this year’s AFD focused on gifts being designated for greatest needs. Greatest need contributions allow for the expansion and enrichment of current programs, staff training, underwriting program equipment, and provides for Camp’s greatest budgetary needs, which includes Camperships. This designation provides Camp the flexibility on how to best apply your gift. As of August 31, 2021, we have collected \$475,655 and have remaining pledges of \$18,254 for a total of \$493,909 or 98.78% of our \$500,000 goal!

Thank you to all our volunteers and donors who help ensure the Manito-wish experience is available to anyone who wants one – regardless of ability to pay. You are changing lives at Manito-wish! Thank you!

## Major Gifts

### Major Gift Initiative

As a donor centric organization, our major gift initiatives are always centered on our donor’s passion first and then it is determined how that fits with the organizational needs. We are currently focusing on the following development initiatives:

- Waterfront restoration project.
- To increase funding of the Staff Incentive Endowment Funds which provide for increased wages to seasonal staff.
- To increase funding to our new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Campership Endowment Fund and to creating new DEI endowment funds that encompass programming as well as property needs.

### Historic Waterfront Restoration Project

From the earliest days of Manito-wish, the waterfront has played a key role in Camp’s mission to promote character and leadership development. A century of steady use as taken a toll on this vital area, resulting in eroding shorelines, crumbling walls and walkways, and potential hazards.

The total need for the historic Waterfront Restoration is \$1.736M. Prior to going “public”, Camp had received \$742,000 towards this goal. We kicked-off the community phase of the Historic Waterfront Restoration Project on August 15. Thanks to the generosity of **Nancy Jacobs**, alumna, past Board Member, current Emeritus Board Member, and volunteer extraordinaire, we were able to offer a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$50,000. In true Manito-wish fashion, our alumni met this match in two weeks. Inspired by **Nancy, Todd & Peggy Allen, Ed & Adele (Schuler) Douglass, Jack & Renate Schuler, Steve & `Cille Ramsey, Raitt Family Foundation, Rice Family Foundation, and Rob & Carrie Young** provided another, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$92,500 match. This match was also met by Manito-wish alumni in just two weeks.

We are so grateful to the Manito-wish Community! As of today, we have \$452,000 to raise to meet the total project goal of \$1.736 million.

If you want any information regarding the Historic Waterfront Project development activities, please reach out to Pat at [pat.soldan@manito-wish.org](mailto:pat.soldan@manito-wish.org) or Jeff at [jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org](mailto:jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org)

Thank you for your generosity!

## BREAK OUT THE OARS

**Buddy Up! FINAL DAY!!**

A group of generous Manito-wishers were so inspired by Nancy Jacobs \$50,000 match that they have provided another match! Dollar-for-dollar your donation to the Waterfront Restoration project will be matched up to \$92,500 for gifts given from now through September 15, 2021. DONATE TODAY!

\$50,000

Mike  
MANITO-WISH

\$92,500

Waterfront  
MANIAC





# FIRES OF FRIENDSHIP

Manito-wish has established the Fires of Friendship Circle to recognize individuals who have included Camp Manito-wish in their estate plans for any purpose or who have made an outright gift of \$10,000 or greater to the Endowment Fund.

The Fires of Friendship celebration took place in person on July 31 at Red Crown Lodge on Trout Lake in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin as well as via zoom. Ninety-seven alumni and friends attended the reception and program. The festivity included guest speakers Spencer & Martha (Frieze) Bonnie, Manito-wish alumni, and an update on Camp by Pat Soldan, CEO and Thomas Basting, Jr, President of the Board. Camp also welcomed two new members to the Fires of Friendship Circle:

## • Eric & Lori Lorenz



## • Pete & Beth Rondello



## Congratulations to all!

As you can see, it is the passion and drive of our alumni toward this magical place, which provides for the ability to ask for assistance! The relationships have been and will always be the most important part of Development. In all these ways, we are preserving Manito-wish for generations to come. Thank you for your passionate, meaningful and generous support.

If you would like more information on Manito-wish's development activities please email

Pat Soldan ([pat.soldan@manito-wish.org](mailto:pat.soldan@manito-wish.org)),  
Jeff Pereles ([jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org](mailto:jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org)), or  
Beth Rondello ([beth.rondello@manito-wish.org](mailto:beth.rondello@manito-wish.org)).

## AmazonSmile

Just a reminder, AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Camp every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Camp. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Make Camp your charity of choice today!

# VALUE OF A MANITO-WISH EXPERIENCE



## ALAN BOESE

Summer Camp 1957



Since I am now 76 years old, and was only 11 when I registered to go to Camp Manito-wish, the birthday post card that you just sent me was quite a surprise indeed! I hope you get enjoyment out of the attached 2 photos of the paddle which I made at Camp and still use. You can barely make out the "Camp Manito-wish" on the second picture. I retired as an economics professor in 2010, and one of my hobbies is building or restoring small wooden boats (kayaks, prams, canoes); so when I restored an early 1940's Penn Yan Kingfisher rowing canoe (which we also paddle), I of course had to use my wooden Manito-wish paddle.

I have very fond memories of my three weeks at camp, especially the one-week canoe trip that we took. We packed all of our supplies in heavy backpacks and seemed to travel thousands of miles (I mean that in a good way) on pristine rivers and lakes, portaging from one body of water to another. That trip gave us a real sense of independence and self-reliance. The funniest part was when the truck picked us up at the end of our adventure and it only took us about an hour to get back to Camp! Those rivers certainly do meander. I also cherish the wonderful new friends that I met at camp, and our many contests and activities. Thank you for rekindling those memories. I sincerely hope that the camp is doing well in spite of Covid and that many new generations of kids will have the opportunity to experience the wonders of camp life. It was one of those youthful experiences that will stay with me forever.



## NOAH CHUTE

Summer Camp Staff 2007-2014

I can't even. Speechless. I don't think I've ever felt so proud.

On one hand, it's just paint on a boat. On the other, this means more than I can probably express here. Let me explain for those who might not immediately recognize why it would have such significance for me.

This is a classic aluminum Grumman canoe at Camp Manito-wish YMCA in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. I took a summer job there in 2007 after applying to an email on the UVM Outing Club (which I wasn't even really a part of) email list from Kit Cahill saying there was some camp I had never heard of looking for staff. I had decided that winter that I had wanted to be a camp counselor, seemingly out of the blue, since though I went to summer camp a couple of times many years before, I was far from a die-hard type camp kid. I found the whole thing pretty intimidating for my little introverted self, and mostly went to archery all of the time, was terrified of the cool kids playing tether ball, and dreaded mandatory daily swim lessons in the lake.

Anyway, I applied and then heard nothing for a long time and forgot about it. I had decided against another camp's offer and had gone home after school ended, wondering what my summer was going to look like. I got a call on a Thursday evening from Brandt Christopherson: "Hey Noah - We want to hire you as a counselor-what do you think?" "When would I need to be there?" "Monday" "Can you guys help with the last-minute plane ticket?" "Yup" "OK, I'm in."

This decision would significantly change my life.

continued on [website](#).



## RYAN LONERGAN

Summer Camp 1998-2000

Outpost participant 2002

My name is Ryan Loneran and I am a proud Manito-wish Alumni. I attended Camp for 4 summers growing during my adolescence. I did two 3-Day/2-night Canoeing trips, ironically they were the exact same. I did one 5-Day/4-night trip. Then my last was 9 Day/8-night hiking on the Superior Hiking Trail.

I grew up fast and took all that experience with me into the Army. Deployed to Iraq in 2009. The skills of packing food, portaging canoes, hiking, preparing camp, and teamwork were all very similar to the military and my job.

I still have my canoe paddle that I bought and etched the "M" with the year 2000. Paddles represent teamwork and responsibility. If everyone isn't paddling it's going to get hard and you won't go the direction you need to go. Making sure you have your paddle and not loading it is important also.

Thank you for a lifetime of memories and stories. It has been close to 20 years since I've been at Camp...I plan to visit soon with my daughter.

I now help fellow veterans with transitioning and employment services in Wisconsin. I have been helping the MIL/Vet community for 14 years. Thank you for making a huge positive impact on my life.



## NANCY MEYER

Summer Camp Staff 1975-1983

If you give a girl a Manito-wish experience, she learns a myriad of outdoor skills, discovers new strengths and interests, and becomes inspired by the people she meets.

If she discovers that she is physically strong enough to pack, paddle and portage a canoe, she becomes comfortable in her skin and in her outdoor surroundings.

If you give a girl confidence to live outdoors and travel via canoe through the wilderness, she soon organizes her own trips and finds solace and beauty in the Northwoods, the Boundary Waters, the Quetico and Bowron Lakes Provincial Parks. She thrives on her ability to live simply and benefits from living outdoors for days on end where she becomes refreshed before the intensity of a new school year.

Since she learned to paddle a canoe, she was honored to be invited to participate in Tribal Journeys for several summers with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Canoe Family in WA state. The tribe recognized the importance of her participation because their children were in her classroom and it enhanced her understanding of their culture. Honoring their culture in the classroom built a sturdy bridge between school and the tribe.

If she pulls (paddles) with the PGST, she joins them on an especially lengthy tribal canoe voyage to the Heiltsuk Nation in Bella Bella, BC, where her life is immeasurably enriched by Native American and First Nations culture.

If she meets Pam Lidington at Camp Manito-wish, she has loads of fun and laughs in her life, learns the proper way to wear a hairnet, and sneaks around doing harmless little pranks at camp that will never be revealed even today.

If she meets KT Foley, she becomes inspired and encouraged to enter her first cross-country ski race, even though she is not nearly as skilled as KT!

After she sets goals for her first race, does not fall at the start or finish line, and completes the race, she yearns to train and improve.

continued on [website](#).



# ALUMNI UPDATES

## NEWSWORTHY



Jon Ittis  
Northwoods  
Farewell,  
Cemetery of the  
Pines, Boulder  
Junction, WI.

A memorial service to honor the life of **Jon Ittis** was on August 7, 2021 in Boulder Junction. **Sharon, Nathan** and **Brian Ittis**, shared that Jon loved everything about Camp Manito-wish and the people he met here. He gained inner satisfaction from building good, functional, economical and energy efficient structures so that people of all ages could enjoy living as close as possible to nature. Jon passed away in December of 2019.



It is with sincere gratitude that we announce the retirement of **Kris (Nelson) Roepke** from her integral role of Administrative Assistant in the Business Office. Kris knows Manito-wish better than most because she grew up at Camp. Her father, **Harold "Stub" Nelson**, was the Caretaker of Camp from 1945-1964. She attended Summer Camp from 1965-68. It is difficult if not impossible to sum her achievements while on Staff from 2013 -2021. Her dedication, commitment, professionalism and attention to detail are worthy of admiration. Kris has been a good friend to all, and will be greatly missed. We wish Kris all the best in retirement!



**Becca Katz** participated in the 2021 Leadville 100 Mountain Bike race with an official "chip time" = 10:50:39; course = 104 miles, 13,129' elevation gain, 9200' low point, 12,516' high point. Becca shared that a mini midlife crisis + operation "get it back" meant the LT100 was a great thing to focus some energy on at a time that has been challenging for most.



## We Want to Hear From You

Please send us information about your life updates, events, name change, address change and email address to:

Snail Mail: Camp Manito-wish YMCA  
P.O. Box 246  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512

Or email: [beth.rondello@manito-wish.org](mailto:beth.rondello@manito-wish.org)

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## WEDDINGS



**Ryan Wagner** & **Kristen Martinek** were married on May 8, 2021. Celebrating with Ryan & Kristen were officiant and Camp Chaplain, **Peter Humphreys Loving**, as well as alumni **Justin VerMeer** and **Matt Leibfried**. The couple resides in Soldier Grove, WI.



**Tim Opsal** & **Lindsay Cieslik** were married on August 14, 2021. Celebrating with Tim & Lindsay were alumni family and friends **Martin Cieslik**, **Fran Keally**, and **Keally Cieslik**. The couple resides in Madison, WI.



**Neal Zucker** & **Shelby Kottal** were married on July 31, 2021. Celebrating with Neal & Shelby was alumna **Allison (Brown) Hewitt**. The couple resides in Ennis, MT.



**Eli Jackson** & **Cecily Gruener** were married on August 19, 2021. Celebrating with Eli & Cecily were alumni family **Peter & Megan Jackson**, and **Zoe Jackson**. The couple resides in Canton, NC.

## IN MEMORY OF

The Camp Manito-wish YMCA community joins in prayerful remembrance of friends and alumni who have passed away.

Charles Campbell, Summer Camp '38  
Robert Van Lone, Summer Camp '38, '39  
Paul Stone, Summer Camp '40, '41  
Georganne (Hinchliff) Eggers, Summer Camp '41-'44, Canuck '46, Staff '46-'48  
John Weiser, Summer Camp '41, '43-'45  
James Stocker, Summer Camp '43-'45, Board Member '87-'07  
Margaret Clemons, Summer Camp '50  
Dean G. Ball, Summer Camp '51  
Hanna Luttje, Staff '56, '57, International Trip '05  
Dale Phillips, Summer Camp '69, '71  
Keith Raney, Summer Camp '73

Helen Loewi, International Trip '75  
Katherine Weiser, Summer Camp '80  
Craig Robertson, Summer Camp '83  
Barbara Griffith, Adult Quetico '98  
Erik Harms, Summer Camp '99  
William "Baker Bill" Gunwald, Staff '01-'08  
Fran Clements Georgeson, Camper parent, Camper grandparent, Camp friend  
Eleanor Lee, Camper parent, Camper grandparent, Camp friend  
Doug Salmon, Camper parent, Camper grandparent, Camp friend  
Barbara Schmidt, Camp friend



# ALUMNI UPDATES

## BIRTHS



Ysa Vo Lotz and **Jefferson R. Lotz**, a daughter, **Alita Vo Lotz**, on October 23, 2020. Camp alum family members celebrating the arrival of **Alita** include **Brian J. Lotz, Emily Lotz, Celeste Lotz**, and **Dana Lotz**. The family resides in Brown Deer, WI.



**Emily (Weber) Loewi** and **Jason Loewi**, a son, **Sawyer Reed Loewi**, on March 17, 2021. Brother Jaylen along with Camp alum family members celebrating the arrival of **Sawyer** include **Jay & Janet Loewi, Lisa (Bourne) Yakulis, Andrew and Chris Weber, Matt Loewi, Jenny Loewi Hollett, Ryan Hollett, Julie (Loewi), Jeffrey, Colt and Clay Allen, Jodi (Loewi) Brandser, Eric, Kate and Jess Brandser**, and many extended family members. The family resides in Madison, WI.



**Emily (Spagnoli) Pearce** and Jon Pearce, a son, **Aiden James Pearce** on April 15, 2021. The family resides in Sitka, AK.



**Emilie (Emmie) Edwards** and Drew Lehmann, a daughter, **Anora Anne Lehmann**, on June 17, 2021. Camp alum family members celebrating the arrival of **Anora** includes the **Eggers family**. Deceased, grandmother **Susan Edwards**. The family resides in Madison, WI.



Kristen Wagner and **Ryan Wagner**, a son, **Aldo Rae Wagner**, on July 13, 2021. Camp alum family member celebrating the arrival of **Aldo** is **Clayton Rogers**. The family resides in Soldier Grove, WI.

# VOLUNTEERS

## Memorial Day Work Weekend

Thank you very much for joining us for the 2021 Memorial Day Work Weekend. You are the reason that Camp was ready to welcome campers, staff, and families to Manito-wish for a summer of programming. All of us at Camp Manito-wish YMCA are inspired by your dedication, and grateful for your help!



## Volunteer thank you

Thank you for taking action to make things happen that helped change the life of a camper, staff member, a family, a student, alum. You make a difference in the Manito-wish community by being ready, willing and able to help support Camp through these volunteer activities at Camp and in your neighborhood:

- Alumni Gathering Host
- Annual Fund Drive
- Birthday Card Club
- Board of Directors
- Camp Office
- Manito-wish Information Event Host
- Memorial Day Work Weekend
- Opening Days of Camp Sessions
- Older Wise Leaders (OWL) behind the scenes offering support, guidance and helping hands.



## Thank you to our Opening Day Volunteers!!!





# Camp Manito-wish YMCA

P.O. Box 246  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512-2312  
(715) 385-2312

[manito-wish.org](http://manito-wish.org)  
[manito-wish.org/donate](http://manito-wish.org/donate)



**GOING DIGITAL!** With a commitment to environmental stewardship the Tripper is offered in digital format. As we transition to going fully digital, a postcard announcement of the publication was mailed to alums without email addresses in Camp records. A limited amount of Trippers were printed for and mailed to alums requesting a hard copy. If you prefer to receive the Tripper by email, please send your email address to: [beth.rondello@manito-wish.org](mailto:beth.rondello@manito-wish.org).

Thank you for helping preserve our natural resources.

Camp Manito-wish YMCA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization; donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

The digital version of the Tripper, and the links referred to in articles, may be found online on Camp's website at <https://manito-wish.org/news/tripper>.

## Mission:

To enrich the character and leadership development of each person who has a Manito-wish experience by challenging them to grow in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God, and with one another.

## Vision:

The Manito-wish experience develops confident, responsible, and enlightened leaders who will improve the world in which they live.

## Commitment:

Camp Manito-wish YMCA strives to create an inclusive environment by upholding human dignity, valuing diversity, and acknowledging unique experiences.

