



News From 'Up North'

FALL/WINTER 2009

State trail is paved - just past Woodland

Pavement ends at the campground, with plans to start up again in the spring and connect with pavement to the north

Crews worked steadily during September, scraping dirt, discing ditches, hauling out old dirt and hauling in new dirt. Plans were to pave the section of the Paul Bunyan Trail from the Hwy. 371 bridge to Laporte and from Laporte to Guthrie, which would connect Walker to Bemidji. The trail is paved from Walker to Hackensack and heads south to the Brainerd area.

In Walker, the Paul Bunyan State Trail joins the paved Heartland Trail, which heads west to Akeley, Nevis and Park Rapids. The Heartland trail also continues north to Cass Lake.

Crews were sent home after it was discovered the wrong mixture of dirt was used on a portion of the trail, thus is was not up to code.

Paving the remaining trail sections should begin this spring, giving bikers and trail enthusiasts great opportunities to explore more in the summer of 2010.

Bikers can now head out onto the paved trail right from their cabin. Those looking for a more challenging ride should try the Heartland Trail towards Akeley, and then take the trail heading south to Hackensack. There is a parking lot for bikers who want to load up the bikes and start the ride at the linking trail just before Akeley. The



Several crew members worked at paving each driveway entrance along the stretch of trail between Hwy. 371 and Benedict. Each crossing had to be prepared on both sides before the main crew came through to pave the trail.

Caron/Melsha biking club introduced this 2-hour ride this fall and it proved to be incredibly fun! The number of hills to climb are tough on the legs, but you always get to go down the other side! The approach to Hackensack levels out for easier riding and a nice cool down.

Apparently, there is a great ice cream shop open during the summer months for a perfect reward. The other reward is to have a truck waiting in Hackensack to put the bikes in - oh, what a nice ride back to Walker that makes! (Thanks, Jack!)



Dump truck after dump truck hooked up to reload the paving machine as it came through the resort.



Along with scrapers, rollers, graders, waterers and other equipment, this special blower came through to clear the surface of any leaves before paving.

Old blue gets a redo

Mike decided to rebuild the engine in the 1950-something Ford tractor. How long does it take to rebuild a tractor? Well, about 1 1/2 years if you add in the "thinking about it".

Old Blue has been a pretty indispensable piece of equipment around the resort over the years. It's used to pull docks, dig trenches for septic, plumbing, landscaping the waterfall, ripping out stumps, installing the outdoor furnace, and hundreds of other miscellaneous tasks that are not possible by man-power alone. Blue finally went kaput in the middle of digging the hole for a new septic tank in the spring of 2008. (not a good time to lose your digger) Luckily a rental was available to finish the job and put docks in that spring.

This summer, with the help of Mike's brother and master-mechanic, Jim, the tractor was dismantled piece by piece so that the engine could be taken out and disassembled. Parts were ordered from different places and it all came together after a LOT of garage time. Brother-in-law, Josh, came and helped get the paint job done one weekend. Looks great!

The tractor finally was running and came out of the garage Nov. 21st, dragging the backhoe on the ground so it



wouldn't do a wheely. The loader assembly was reattached and both Mike and Old Blue are ready to start hauling and digging. Bring on the dirt!



2010 CABIN OPENINGS

May 14-28	Cabin #3, 7, 9, 13
May 14-22	Cabin #2, 4, 11
May 20-27	Cabin #4
May 22-29	Cabin #12, 13
Aug. 21-28	Cabin #11, 13
Sept. 4-11	Cabin #1, 5
Sept. 11-18	Cabin #8, 12
Sept. 18-25	Cabin #11
Sept. 25-Oct. 2	#1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11

There are currently no openings for June or July 2010.

If you would like a week that is not available, the best time to call or email is from January 16 (after deposits are due) until around mid-February or March, in case we get some cancellations. We can also add your name to our waiting list for a particular week. Our cabin openings are listed on www.woodlandresort.net or email us at wdland@arvig.net

THE KIDS

Jeffrey is 7 years old now and is in 1st grade. He loves to find words he knows and sound out his words. He also loves to pick the thickest books on the shelf and page through them.

Jeffrey enjoys going to speech each week with his friend, Mark. He came for Jeffrey's first birthday sleepover this fall - with a record-breaking 2 hours of giggling before they finally fell asleep.

On his days off from school, he loves playing Webkinz and other games on the computer. He likes to play horsey and doggy with Jessica, where they get to drink out of bowls on the floor and bark and take orders from each other. Hopefully next year Jeffrey will start playing sports, as he has a ton of energy that would be perfect for it! Lately he has asked why he doesn't get to go to boys' dance class like the girls (well, there isn't one).



Jeffrey keeps an eye on all the trucks working on the trail, while reporting it all on his cell phone (a deck of cards).



Jessica loves to drive the bumper cars, heading straight for a crash into her brother.

have so much fun together. The girls have done an amazing job at their cookie and candy sales and are all looking forward to the Zoo Snooze sleepover at the Lake Superior Zoo this winter!

In her spare time, Jessica still loves to do her artwork - anything with cutting, coloring, stamping, folding or painting. She has recently begun to sew, trying to make clothing for both herself and her stuffed animals. She loves to dress up and put make-up on with her friends. Jessica also practices her handstands, cartwheels, backbends and dance kicks where ever she goes.



Cara (right) with her cousins, Kristen and Shannon geo-caching this past summer.

December also brings the school musical, "It All Happened In The Country" where Cara has one of the main parts, the city girl, Chelsea.

Cara still enjoys Just For Kix with her friends. 6th, 7th and 8th grades practice together this year. Her group did a great job at the Christmas show again and will soon be preparing for the spring competition in Brainerd, where they earned 1st place in their category last year.

She is also looking forward to helping Dad mow the lawn on the resort next summer!

Jessica is 8½ and the only 3rd grader in her classroom this year. She is a big help to her younger classmates with tasks such as reading and computers.

Jessica is very excited about Christmas this year - having done all her shopping already (mostly at the Dollar Store). She also has been working on making Whitey's gift - a new cat bed - since he spends most of his napping on the pompoms on her bed.

Her Brownie Girl Scout troop grew again this year to 15 girls! They all have so much fun together. The girls have done an amazing job at their cookie and candy sales and are all looking forward to the Zoo Snooze sleepover at the Lake Superior Zoo this winter!

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Cara is in 6th grade and turned 12 this fall. On her birthday, we took her to have her ears pierced. The initial 6 weeks is up so she can now try on different styles - oh, the fun!

Cara is a Cadet in Girl Scouts this year and is enjoying all the interest projects you can earn at this level. Currently, she is volunteering at Walker Animal Hospital one day each week to help her earn the Pets badge. She has already learned about some of the vaccines that are given and enjoys the pets that come in.

Cara joined choir this year, along with playing the flute in band. We are all looking forward to attending her upcoming Christmas concerts.

Woodland pantry coming!

Every month we receive a resorting magazine with tips and stories of other resorters. A few months back we found an idea we'd love to use here at Woodland.

The idea is to have a cupboard area that will supply items people have requested, but do not fit in the cabins or that are not possible to stock in each cabin. We plan to add this in our laundromat room in place of the booths, and guests will be able to help themselves

to what is available. We just ask that the items are put back when no longer being used so guests in other cabins have the opportunity to use them.

Some of the items will include a crock pot, roasters, electric pancake griddle, blender, extra pans, corkscrew, meat thermometer, and extra silverware and serving items for potlucks.

More suggestions for the pantry items are welcome! Email us at: wldand@arvig.net or just let us know!

Mike gets his own boat

This September Mike was on the lookout for a great deal on a boat. The subject has been brought up many times over the years, but we finally decided this was the year.

After looking at a few here and there, weighing the positives and negatives and watching one he was interested in get sold, he decided to check on a 20 ft. Crestliner we had looked at about 4-5 years ago. It was still there!

Being that it was close to Walker and exactly what we needed to cruise around Leech, fish, pull the kids tubing and skiing, and just plain relax, Mike went to see about the boat.

After getting a tour of their most elaborate boats, he mentioned the old Crestliner and they accepted his offer!

The boat will need a lot of upholstery work, but it runs great. Hopefully you won't see us on Wednesday afternoons next summer, because we'll be out in the boat!



This 22" walleye was caught and released right in the harbor by our nephew Ethan!

LEECH LAKE REPORT

Following are a few highlights from the October 2009 report sent out by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Approximately 102,000 pounds of walleye were harvested. Nearly 35% of all walleye caught by anglers during the season were within the slot limit. The current walleye regulation is an 18-26" protected slot limit with 4 fish in possession, only one of which can be longer than 26.0 inches. The regulation was originally due for review this winter. However, to accommodate the broader statewide evaluation of slot limits across all of Minnesota's large walleye lakes as well as to obtain an additional year of information, the Leech Lake walleye slot limit will be formally reviewed prior to the 2011 fishing season. The current regulation will remain in effect for the 2010 fishing season.

Leech Lake Reservation DRM conducted double-crested cormorant control efforts again this year with a total of 3,084 birds removed from the lake.

A full report is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/walker/index.html> or at www.woodlandresort.net under newsletters.

Merry Christmas! Blessings to all our family & friends at this joyous time of year!
Mike, Kelly, Cara, Jessica & Jeffrey

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

