

WINTER UPDATE 2015

Greetings North House Instructors! It's that time again: the Spring-Summer catalog is in production, which means we **need to hear from YOU** soon to get your courses on the calendar and into the world. This catalog is available March 1 and will run April 2015-December 2015. Note, there will be another opportunity to schedule fall 2015 courses later this year, but for the most flexibility, this would be the time to schedule.

Scheduling Timeline

- **January 27:** I need to hear from you if you want to add any courses between April '15-December '15.
- **February 1:** The online "Spring Preview" courses become available for registration. These courses are typically in May and early June. If you schedule by Jan 21, your classes can be part of the preview.
- **February 14:** Everything, including photos, materials fees, etc. needs to be finalized.
- **March 1:** All courses open online and catalogs are mailed.

Weekday coursework: We are having good luck with courses offered during the week, and continue to hear from more students that they appreciate a weekday option. Last year, we actually had more weekday-only courses happen than weekend courses (80% versus 75%, but they are very different sample sizes). We strongly urge you to consider extending your stay at North House if that's possible for you: add an additional one-, two-, or three-day course on Wed-Thurs-Fri: we are happy to discuss ideas and options.

Website Updates: Please, please, please double check your courses on our website: do we need to update the photos? Is the tools list correct? Is the description accurate? Thanks to the expansion of the intern program, we'll have more eyeballs on the website this winter, but you'll be best at catching errors.

New Classroom Clipboards: Instructor feedback is key to evolving our classrooms and resources at North House. We'll try to have a clipboard in each classroom space to record any notes about tools or other improvements in order to gather all the good ideas before they escape. Next time you have a mid-class revelation, break a drill bit, or discover that all our whisks have been whisked away – identify the conspicuous clipboard and let us know.

Classroom Resources: The 2015 budget includes funding for classroom improvements. We do our best work when you tell us what you need, so please don't be shy if there is an item you'd like to get on the list.

School Store: Please feel free to reach out to Andrew Beavers, school store manager with any suggestions on course materials, books or the like to have for sale in our school store. If the suggestions for the materials or books are for a currently scheduled class please contact Andrew three to four weeks in advance of the class to make sure it is available for the students on arrival. His e-mail is: abeavers@northhouse.org

Course Evaluations: For the last quarter of 2014, we experimented with online-only course evaluations in the hopes of joining the paperless revolution. Well, the revolution appears to be over-rated in this case, as we had very low response rates, general unhappiness from instructors and still had mind-numbingly tedious work to get the results returned to you quickly. So, we are returning to a revised and shortened paper version of the eval, with the option of online for those who want it. However, we are now **asking students to return completed evaluations to the Front Office** (we'll have a designated box) rather than to instructors directly. We now have an intern in charge of turning these around to you, so they should be back to you within two weeks, which will hopefully make the information more relevant and useful to you. If you have questions, let us know!

Instructor-in-Residence: This popular program will be back this summer! Come spend an extended period of time on campus demonstrating during the summer months. Instructors demonstrate on the commons, teach a mini-class, and sell their wares if they choose. Matt Nesheim, who has recently been made a full time employee with a new title: Program Coordinator, will coordinate the program, which will run weekly Thurs-Sunday, June-Sept. If you're interested in a particular week, let us know right away. Otherwise, more information to come later this winter.

2015 Thematic Weekend & Special Events Calendar

April 8-12: Instructor Retreat

April 16-19: Service Learning & Volunteer Weekend

May 1-3: Northern Sustainability Symposium

May 29-31: Northern Landscapes Festival

June 19-21: Wooden Boat Show

July 10-12: Timber Frame Regional Gathering

Sept 17-20: Unplugged

October 15-18: Family Weekend

October 30-Nov 1: Fresh Cut Wood Turning Symposium

Nov 20-22: Winterer's Gathering and Arctic Film Festival

MEET THE 2015 INTERNS!!!

Benjamin Byron- Ben loves working with his hands. He has dabbled in a wide array of craft including but not limited to cedar strip construction, wood carving, furniture construction as well as a timber framing class here at North House! In addition to those areas of craft, he is also a talented musician and loves the outdoors—specifically rock climbing. Ben is also very involved in civil war reenactment. He and his regiment have traveled to various "battles" across the country. From these experiences he has developed a strong knowledge of "old time" skills that will surely fit right in here at North House Folk School.

Martha Brummitt- Martha comes to us with a wealth of craft and teaching experience. Most recently, she has taught knitting and spinning at Sister Arts Studio in Chicago, IL, and volunteered at the Better Boys Foundation where she taught wheel spinning and basic knitting to inner city youth. Martha is also familiar with the non-profit world—she was the regional program director for Big City Mountaineers. At Big City Mountaineers she coordinated teens and adults on canoe trips as well hosting training and community building events. Her love of fiber arts is only preceded by her love of water. Martha has over 14 years of sailing and canoeing experience and she is extremely excited about meeting our schooner Hjordis.

Caleb Mattison- Caleb has been pursuing traditional craft and primitive skills ever since graduating Luther College. Caleb worked as an environmental sustainability coordinator where he created and implemented educational events around energy conservation, waste reduction and local foods. He has also spent time as an intern on an organic farm where he learned about the importance of knowing where your food comes from. These experiences inspired him to build a small cabin home using whole pole framing and natural building techniques. Caleb is big fan of the North where he spent a summer working at Hungry Jack Outfitters and is ready to be inspired by the North Shore again.

Erin Swenson-Klatt- Erin first showed up on our radar when her mother and aunt came her to participate in a class. After visiting she then volunteered here as a work study participant. From those interactions she decided to apply for the 2015 internship. Erin has a love of Scandinavian culture, so much so that she spent a semester abroad learning and teaching in Sweden. Erin most recently has been the manager of Butter Bakery Café in Minneapolis where her passion for the slow food movement and all things culinary are at the forefront. In addition to those talents Erin is also fluent in Swedish which we think will fit right in at our folk school.

INSTRUCTOR RETREAT 2015 APRIL 8-12, 2015

We were hoping to include the full weekend schedule and RSVP form with this email, but there are a few last minute pieces coming together that we wanted to share, so look forward to seeing the full schedule next week. In the meantime, here's the plan

Lead-In Coursework: 6 tuition-free courses for YOU, some materials fees may apply. Full schedule soon.

- April 8-10 Building the Joe Seliga Canoe with Jeanne Bourquin
- April 9-10 Carving Bird Bowls Course Workshop with Mike Loeffler
- April 9-10 Intro to Food Fermentation with Eric Edgin

Details: North House will provide you with lodging (on and off campus, details soon), some meals, and coursework. Limited travel stipends available upon request.

Friday, April 10

4:30pm Retreat Kick-off
6:00pm Dinner at North House
7:30pm Instructor Show n' Share

Saturday, April 11

9:00am Teaching Techniques Discussions/Workshops
11:00am Making it Happen: Making Campus Better for You
12:30pm Lunch on North House
1:30pm The Other Side of the World of Craft: Grant-Writing, Marketing and more
2:30pm Try-It Mini Courses Begin

Want to teach a 2-3 hour mini course for your fellow instructors? Let me know!

6:00pm Pizza Bake
7:30pm Featured Presentation

Sunday, April 12

9:00am Wrapping It Up
11:00am The Big Move: Emptying the Blue Building b.c. we're re-finishing the floor!

RSVP & Sign-Up for Coursework: By all means, let us know if you're planning to come. Otherwise, sit tight, a full list of lead-in courses and registration form coming your way in the next couple of days.