

Spring Update: Invitations, News & Tidbits from North House

Greetings from ~~snowy, rainy, sleeting, sunny & 70-degree~~...well, anyway, hi from North House. It is that wonderful time of the year here where there are a ton of fun things ahead of us: the excitement is palpable around here (or maybe we've all had too much coffee). I will keep this brief, but I did want to share some news and invitations.

An Invitation to the Steambent Brunch & Instructor Gathering

We would like to invite you to Brunch on **Sunday, June 24**. The morning will start with our Annual Instructor Gathering, complete with doughnuts, mimosas and conversation. **See attached invitation** for more details, including discussion topics (winter instructor retreat and assistant instructors top the list) and **RSVP**. We'll follow that with the Annual Steambent Brunch, Member Gathering and keynote presentation. Please come as our guest; family and friends can make reservations on the **attached form** as well.

The Gathering begins at 9; the Brunch at 11 am, followed by a panel discussion of the Wooden Boats and Other Stories of Isle Royale with Tim Cochrane, Howard Sivertson and Gene Skadberg, a not-to-be-missed slice of local history.

Wooden Boat Show: A Community of Crafters

This will be the 15th annual Wooden Boat Show. Wow! In honor of the 15th year, we've made a few changes to the schedule; the full details will be posted online on May 1. Stay tuned!

One thing has not changed: we would love to have you come demonstrate. We're hoping to have most demonstrations happening in and around the new brick courtyard near the Blacksmith Shop, weather permitting. We would like to have demonstrations on both Friday (noon-5 pm) and Saturday (9am-5pm). Please let us know if you are interested in coming, and any needs you might have (**see attached form**).

Outdoor Commons

We're getting there. It will be fun to see how this new space can be used programmatically; there will be no shortage of ideas I'm sure. We are still fund-raising for this project, but are currently on track for success. One of the major parts of this fundraising is to increase our membership (our goal is 1,000 members, we're currently at 800 or so). Another big plan in the works is to dramatically expand the silent auction at Unplugged. As you know, we will be welcoming Mountain Stage again this year, and we're hoping to provide lots of opportunity for people to bid on craft, lodging packages, and other creative ideas. More details to come, and we welcome your ideas.

Student Welcome

As many of you have already experienced, we have added another landmark to the North House experience. Since January, we have been hosting a 10-15 minute "Student Welcome" once or twice each weekend. Our hope is to frame the North House experience for students, introduce the staff, and preview what other events might be happening that weekend (pizza bakes, soup potlucks, etc.) So far, welcomes have typically been offered to all classes starting on a given day, which lately has been on both Friday and Saturday mornings at 9 am. Currently, they have been held in the Blue Building, but hopefully come summer, we can gather on the back deck or in the new amphitheater. The campus host will connect with you before your class to figure out when best to welcome your students. Feedback from instructors and students has been very positive thus far, and we welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Notes from the Front Office

A couple of small details from the friendly folks at the front office...one, they are growing in number. We are excited to welcome Cindy Hansen as our new, very part time office assistant for the summer and early fall months. Cindy is a Cook County local, and runs Sawbill Canoe Outfitters with her husband Bill, a founding board member. We are also pleased that Kathleen Viton will be returning as an office assistant again this summer as well; between these two capable gals, we'll all be putting our feet up more often (well, maybe not). A simple request from the office: **please be sure to return your keys** and your nametags when you leave campus.

Notes from Kelly & Russ, classroom superheroes

Two new organizational initiatives from this dynamic duo to solve some intransigent problems around here: misplaced, lost and broken tools and equipment. One, in an effort not to lose things, we have started keeping some course-specific tools in a bin under Kelly's desk (the red & white handled scissors for example). You are of course welcome to use them in your classes; we just ask that you sign them out and back in (or Kelly can do this for you). Over the years we have "misplaced" some rather large and expensive items and a whole bunch of small ones, which is frustrating for everyone. Hence, the renewed efforts at organization.

And, in an effort to fix things that are broken, there is now a new binder in the front office where we would ask that you jot down things that need attention from Russ, since he is usually not around on the weekends. This will help Russ and his assistant keep better track of all of the "little things" that matter around a place this big. Just ask for Russ's Binder and we'll get you set up.

Student Supplies

Buck's Hardware, our wonderful local hardware store, has offered to special order supplies for you if there is anything you or your students will need them to have on hand. The person to contact is Tracy Benson. (218) 387-2280 and buckshh@hotmail.com.

For Families

Increasingly, we receive requests for courses that are appropriate for students under 18 to take with an adult (or, occasionally, by themselves). In response, we've created a "For Families" page on our website that lists all of the classes the currently have an "intergenerational" option. If you're open to having younger folks in your courses (either with or without an adult, you can specify), please check the page (<http://www.northhouse.org/courses/courses/coursesforkids.cfm>) and make sure your class is listed there with the correct ages. Obviously, not all courses are appropriate for this, but some are. Out of fairness to other students, it seems like we should make it apparent from the beginning that there may be younger people in the class with them.

That's all the news for now; please don't forget to RSVP for the Wooden Boat Show. We look forward to seeing you on campus soon and thank you for all you do to make North House the vibrant place that it is.

-Jessa and the rest of the crew at North House

"It seems that much of our hurry is driven by the metaphor "time is money." But time is not money. It is the opportunity to invest care, carefulness, attention, listening. What if our new metaphor for time was craftsmanship?"
--Doug Stowe, from a post at wisdomofhands.blogspot.com

"My experience gave me hope for the future."

- student evaluation from North House