

BOYD'S BULLETIN

2024 Season



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What an absolutely beautiful foggy day it is here in the Northwoods. Mother Nature can't seem to decide if it should rain or snow, so the precipitation seems to be stuck in limbo. While the fog is wonderful to watch as it ebbs and flows over Dog Lake, the chill in the air is enough to convince Gert and I to re-think our walk and stay inside by a crackling fire to enjoy memories of warmer days. On this particular afternoon, my mind travels back to the previous season and a truly special summer filled with wonderful people, beautiful weather, and lots of resort projects.



As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, Chip spent a good portion of last winter and spring remodeling the kitchen in the Girls cabin. As families staying in our cabins grow with each generation, it becomes more and more necessary to make sure that all kitchens have plenty of shelving, storage, and counter space for dishes, snacks, and other supplies. Of course, no kitchen remodel is complete without a full-sized fridge, and we managed to make space for one during this update.

After the kitchen was complete, the Girls living room received new carpeting and recliners, while the bathroom got an updated floor and new vinyl. The entire project turned out perfectly and kept the cabin's personality while making it more functional for everyone who enjoys it!

As soon as he was done updating the kitchen in Girls, Chip moved on to Ryan, where the kitchen counter was replaced and space was made for a larger fridge.

Everyone works hard to keep dust down during our remodel projects, but when it comes time to begin opening cabins for the season, our cabin crew knows cabins that undergo upgrades turn into their own special kind of cleaning projects. Since we anticipated a lot of dust in our future and there were a lot of new team members to train, our Cabin Crew started a week earlier than normal.



Kitchen remodel in Girls



Our first week of moving furniture, dusting, vacuuming, and other projects went smoothly. By our second week, however, colds sweeping through the schools caught up with the kids of several staff members, and then eventually made their way to all of us. Soon we found ourselves more than a little behind. With everyone feeling more than unwell, there wasn't much we could do about it except progress as best we could... and worry.



Thankfully, help was on the way! From the moment Tatak, Beam, and Patrick, J-1 visa students from Thailand, arrived, it was clear this was going to be a special season. Tatak and Beam were part of our housekeeping team, and Patrick had accepted a dining room server position, but all three of them got to work helping us play catch-up opening cabins. Not only were we able to get back on track, but we had way more fun doing so than anyone planned and that set the tone for the whole summer!

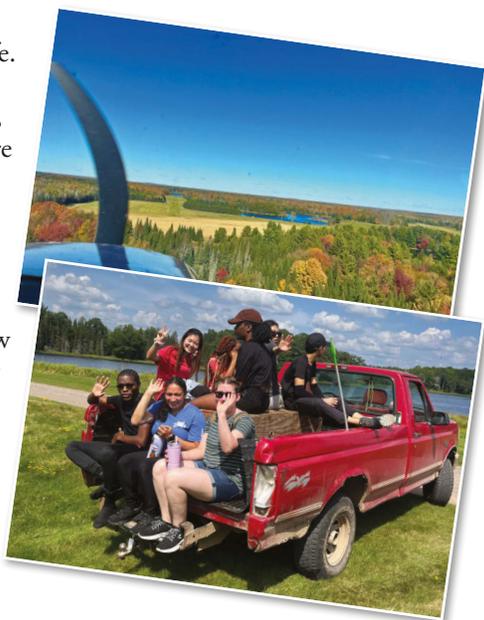
The 2024 season was filled with more laughter, pranks, and adventures between staff members than I can ever remember, and I credit our J-1 students as the catalyst for this. In addition to the previously mentioned students from Thailand, we also welcomed Kimani, Devany, Nas, Sasheika, and Kingsley from Jamaica.

It's always nerve-racking welcoming student employees from different countries. We want everyone that stays with us to have both a great work experience and the summer of a lifetime. As a result, we work hard to make sure



everyone who is joining us understands that the resort isn't close to any large cities or towns, and the towns we are close to have limited options for shopping, entertainment and night life. What we can offer are fun fishing and boating opportunities, Northern lights, a flight adventure in Tyler's plane, water skiing tutorials with Chris, midnight canoe trips with Mary, and horse wrangling opportunities with me every time Pancake decides to learn a new pasture escape technique. If spending time outdoors biking, hiking, fishing and swimming is what brings you joy, then Boyd's is the perfect spot to spend a summer. This year, our J1 students were a perfect match for the resort and the resort was a perfect match for them.

Our students took every opportunity to make this summer one to remember. From water fights in our laundry house, to full out tackles during softball games, and nerf wars in the crew quarters, something was always happening and everyone was always laughing. Of course, our exchange students weren't the only ones determined to make the 2024 season amazing!



Lisa and Julie stepped in to fill the shoes of Jean and Hugh as baker and swing chef/baker. We welcomed two other US-based servers, Star from Nevada, and Yulia from Kentucky. Two Northland students, Emily and Yanelly rounded out our team as a server and as our social activities director respectively.



Under Yanelly's stewardship, The Wigwam was bustling with activity this year! Putting French doors on the back of the Wigwam added a lot more light and a lot more foot traffic through the building. New craft ideas and arcade games were a big hit as well. This upcoming season we plan to add screens to the French doors and update the porch off the back. Nothing better than more fresh air and a fun place to enjoy it!

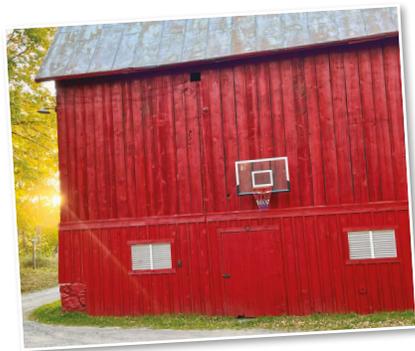
Before we knew it the summer was in full swing! While the interior of our cabins is always something we endeavor to keep up with, we also do our best to keep a close eye on the exteriors. Brian went over all of our porch, cabin, and lodge screens in detail repairing and replacing hundreds of screens over the winter of 2023. As the summer kicked into high gear, wildlife, weather, and the occasional over-excited pooch seemed to be constantly at war with our screens and Brian was routinely at work doing his best to keep up with the wear and tear to keep the bugs out.



Thankfully, after a particularly wet spring, the bug population died off a bit in midsummer and gave Brian a bit of a reprieve in his battle, but he wasn't the only one kept on his toes by insects this season. Eddy, our resident bee keeper had an exciting experience when one of the queens from the honey bee hives in the orchard tried to leave her hive and was swarmed by her workers. Thankfully, the giant mass of bees was noticed and Eddy was able to return the queen home where she and her colony got back to work pollinating the apple trees and making some of Eddy's famous honey!



When he wasn't herding his honey makers back home, Eddy undertook the massive project of painting our barn a beautiful bright red and we upgraded our basketball hoop so that some of our exchange students and guests could enjoy energetic games of HORSE or practicing free throws.



With one cheerful paint upgrade completed Eddy turned his focus to working on the buildings down by our laundry house. Tyler had upgraded Dog View, a small staff cabin, in the early spring. Dog View's fresh coat of paint made it obvious that the other buildings were in need of attention too. Eddy got to work pressure washing, caulking, and repainting the exteriors of our fish cleaning house and laundry house. Our Cabin Crew even got some new screen doors on our building to help keep us a bit cooler during the summer months when we have our dryers running full time.

Inside the laundry house, we were incredibly lucky to have an amazing team! Everyone was flexible and ready to adjust to different plans while always putting their best foot forward and supporting each other. If ever there was a season we needed it, this was it! This season, we only had 3 veteran fulltime cabin crew: myself, Tammy, and Cia. While ordinarily this would be a tough but manageable situation, part way through the busiest part of our season all three of us had to simultaneously take an extended leave from work. Our new team members did an incredible job grabbing the bull by the horns and making sure our Saturday turnovers went smoothly, laundry didn't fall behind, and side projects around the resort stayed on schedule.





Tammy and Cia were eventually able to come back and continue to lend their experience to our crew, but I was sidelined for the last six weeks of the season due to a back injury. While I still was able to assist our department, being unable to walk comfortably, stand for long periods, or lift anything, made me truly appreciate the dedication of the incredible crew we had this season!

Not only was this year's staff an exceptional team at work, but outside of work as well. Two of our new local cabin staff, Mary and Jacci, took time to bring our J-1 students to see Lake Superior, go shopping in town, and visit both the Price County Fair and Flambeau Rama. Nathan brought students to the zoo in Minocqua and shopping in Eau Claire. Closer to home, Julie showed off the splendor of the area's waterfalls, and some of our guides took time to show the students the finer points of fishing local lakes and rivers.

Sadly, before we knew it, our all-star team began to slowly disband. As our student employees returned to school and their home countries, Nathan was there to try and cheer everyone up during the inevitable final goodbyes and on the many trips to the airport.

Thankfully, we expect the goodbyes will only be temporary as we are going through the process to have many of our J-1 students return, and hope to see many now familiar faces back with us next year.

In addition to being excited to see many of our students back next year, we are thrilled that Molly from Renew U Spa will be offering Massage Mondays once again for our 2025 season. Molly is an incredible massage therapist, and I can personally attest to how much she can help either with muscle pain or just enhancing the relaxation of your time at the resort. We're thrilled she will be rejoining us in 2025 and you can book your massage in the office as soon as you arrive, or give Mary a call in the office for more information.



During the 2024 season we designated Room 10 in the upstairs of our lodge for Molly's massages. Our plans for next year's Massage Mondays remain the same, but everyone can expect that area to look much different!



Hotel Renovation

As soon as the gates closed on this season, we turned our focus to a whole host of winter projects. Eddy is already very busy in the main lodge ripping up the carpeting in each of our lodge rooms and restoring the hardwood floors underneath. AC Carpet will then come in and replace the carpet down our main hallway along with updating the vinyl in our Ladies guest bathroom.

When the upstairs of the lodge is complete, work will continue downstairs. Eddy and Joe will move the door in the Men's downstairs bathroom to face away from the dining room, and AC Carpet will focus on the rooms off the kitchen, replacing the flooring in the walk-in coolers, freezer, and adjoining storage areas. While the lodge projects are a huge undertaking, that doesn't mean we don't have cabin projects in the works as well!

Chip is already busy at work in Loons Nest. Our initial plan for Loons Nest was similar to what we did in Girls last year: upgrade the kitchen and replace carpeting and vinyl throughout most of the cabin. When the old living room carpet was ripped up, however, we found hardwood floors that had been hidden away for a few decades. Unfortunately, whenever the carpet was installed the foam backing was glued directly to the floor and over the years it tried very hard to become one with the wood. We were faced with the decision of trying to restore the floors or cover them again. We really enjoy preserving our cabins and their history whenever possible, and we're lucky enough to have Chip and Eddy on our team... so, Chip has had quite the project on his hands getting the floors ready to be restored! Once the living room is finished, the rest of the remodel will begin. The kitchen will be updated, fireplace will be refurbished, and a pocket to the right of the fireplace will be created to fit a full-size fridge. Once Chip's portion of the project is complete, AC Carpet will be installing new vinyl in both bathrooms and carpeting in the back right bedroom.

As soon as the Loons Nest project is complete, the focus will shift to smaller kitchen projects in Roadside and Lakeview that will involve modifying the counter tops so that the current mini-fridges can be replaced with larger fridges. Corner will also be receiving a full-sized fridge, along with new carpeting throughout the cabin. As always, there will be a healthy sprinkling of new furniture throughout the cabins with new sofas incorporating a pull-out function to accommodate the expanding families of our guests.



Loons Nest Renovation

While our remodels and updates this winter are new challenges that will certainly be keeping us busy for months, the theme is the same as always: preserve the Boyd's Magic. We want to show our love and appreciation for everything Boyd's by keeping as much as possible the same while also elevating everyone's experience with each project.

Just as I hope this newsletter finds you well and lifts your spirits with thoughts of Boyd's, the fog here seems to be lifting and Gert and I are going to take that walk after all! Until we see each other again, we wish you a wonderful winter full of adventures that you can share with us when we see you in the 2025 season.

Sincerely,
Laura Stroud
Laura Stroud

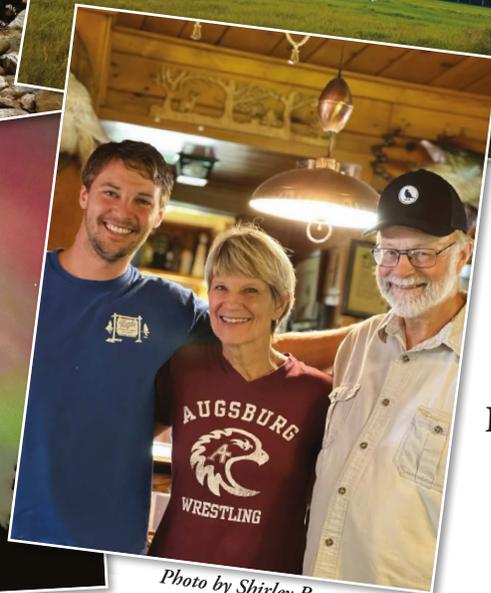
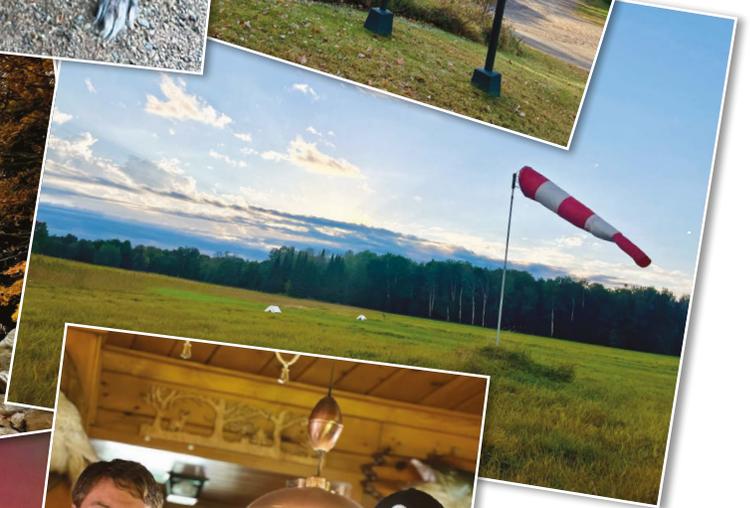


Photo by Shirley Bayer

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