

**BWCA  
PHOTO  
ALBUM  
2025**

THE  
ROOT BEER LADY



**h**istory theatre





Before there was *Stranger Things*, there were my two cousins, my brother, and me adventuring in the BWCA!

That's me in front in the green cropped shirt and red & blue tube socks pulled way up to my knees. LOL! This glorious picture was taken in the Summer of 1979 at our campsite on Vista Lake. Vista was 5 lakes into the BWCA off the Gunflint Trail and required 4 portages to get there. We went many Summers to Vista as young boys fishing for walleye, filleting them on the shore for supper, swimming off the limestone rocks in the hot Summer afternoons and competing to see who could flip the highest pancakes for breakfast.

This same year in 1979 was the first time I'd ever seen the Aurora Borealis Northern Lights. And sometimes a satellite could be seen tracing high across the atmosphere. We would get lost in questions about the mythology and science behind the wondrous things we saw.

We used to sing as we paddled our canoes home, "My paddle clean and bright, flashing like silver. Swift as the wild geese fly, dip, dip, and swing."

I'm so grateful to my Dad and my Uncle Jim, who has now passed away, for taking us as young boys and instilling the lifelong love of Nature and the BWCA.

Thanks History Theatre for this opportunity to share a treasured memory and I look forward to seeing everyone else's photos and memories of our beloved BWCA.

And Break a leg Root Beer Lady!

- Andrew Erskine Wheeler





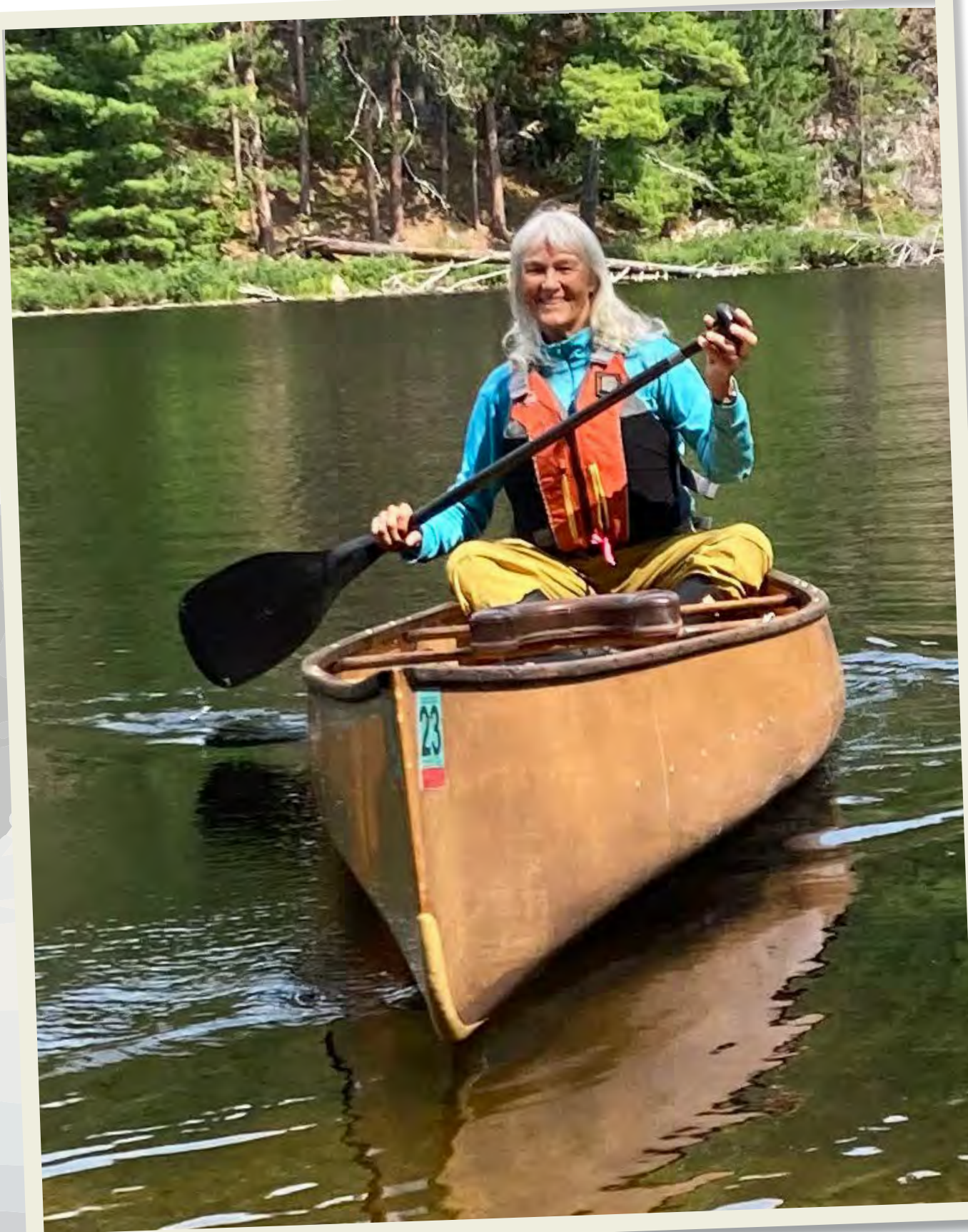
ANN ANDERSON

A few photos of our memorable trip to the BWCA. The highlight was lunch on Dorothy's island.





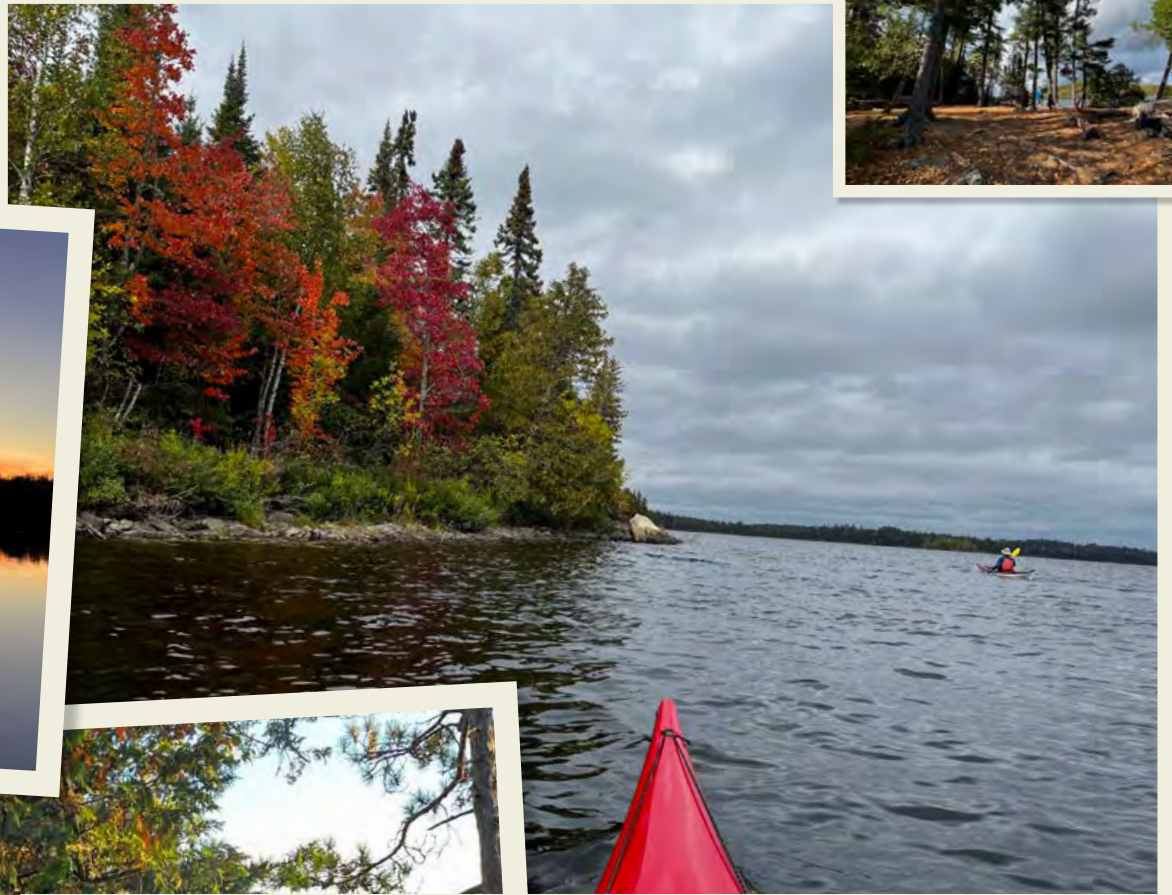




Paddling in the BWCA.



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Many happy, happy, memories of time spent in the Boundary Waters. My brother and I go every year on the first weekend (4 days) in October. No mosquitoes. No crowds. Mostly great weather. Heaven.

My brother reading William Kent Krueger's book *Boundary Waters*.

BETSY TREINEN





**BRIAN JOHNSON**





I was invited to join a group of fellow Honeywell engineers for an early Spring BWCAW trip in 1982, which was quite an honor as the group had been making an annual trip since 1962. We have kept up the tradition, going every year, although the number of paddlers isn't as high as it used to be. It wouldn't be the same without the annual trip. A group photo from 2005 and one from last year's trip in 2024.  
- Gordon Rouse





JULIE LAHAMMER



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**MIKE AND KATHY MORNEAU, TOM BRACKEN**





These are photos of my dad, Jim Guldan, when he would guide The Explorer Scouts on trips to the BWCA in 1953, 1954 & 1956. He always stopped by to visit Dorothy Molter on these trips. On one trip he visited her wearing this tux! Dorothy loved it!

They would depart from the BSA Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base on Moose Lake in Ely for an 8 day trip in the US & Canada. Dad would have 1 day off & then go out again for 8 more days. We were fortunate enough to get dad back to the BWCA several times in the early 1990s. He is now 92 & living in Woodbury.

His 4 grandsons, 3 of them my sons, went to the BWCA as boy scouts every February. My 3 sons achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Although they were not fortunate enough to meet Dorothy, they have been to the Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely. What a wonderful family tradition.  
- Mary Rugloski

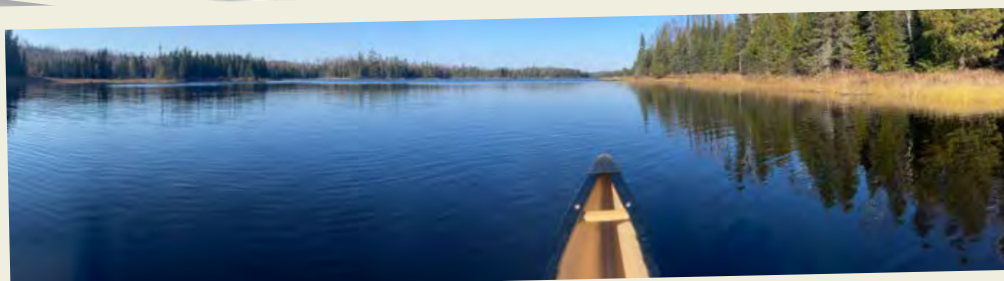
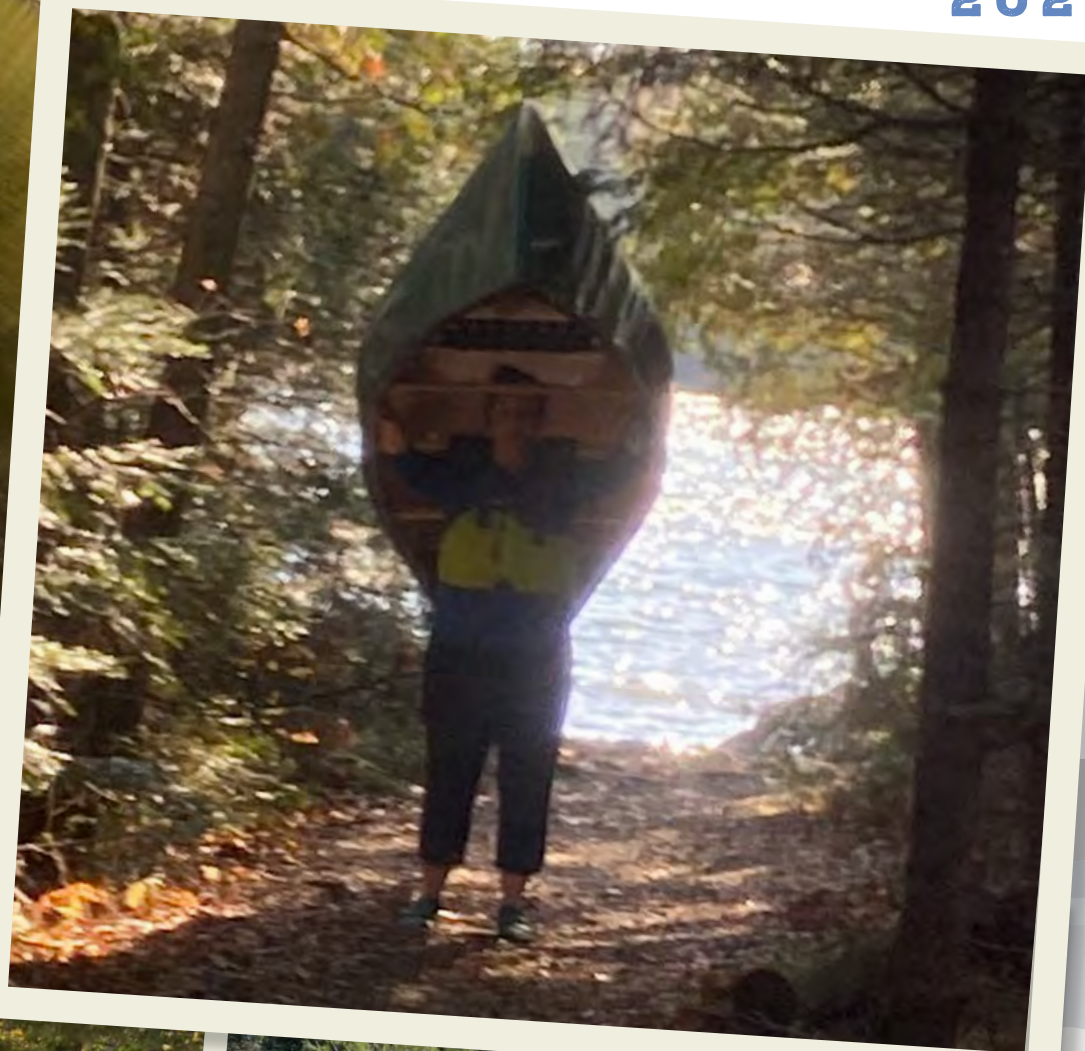




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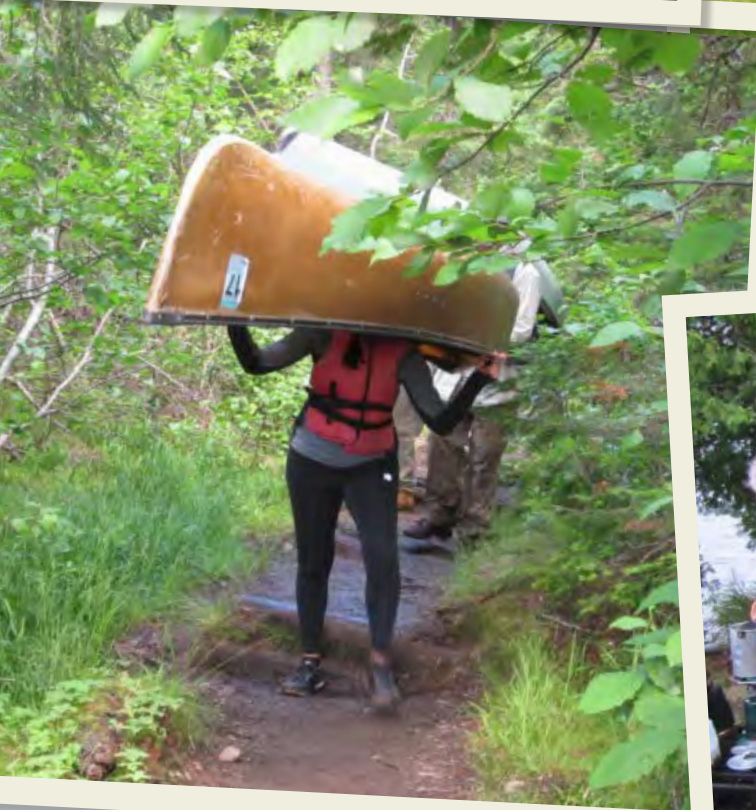








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Hello! In July 2016 a group of 9 friends, including me, headed from Rockford, Illinois to the Boundary Waters to go canoeing, which took us along Caribou Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and others. We tent camped, portaged, cooked over a fire, did water purification, and had a lot of fun while getting great exercise! I'm sorry we didn't meet Dorothy Molter there, but two of us loved seeing "The Root Beer Lady" play at History Theatre. I hope you enjoy seeing these photos from our canoe trip! - P. Zoe Norwood

**P. ZOE NORWOOD**





**DOROTHY MEMORY**

Always bought root beer, don't remember the price, 10 cents???

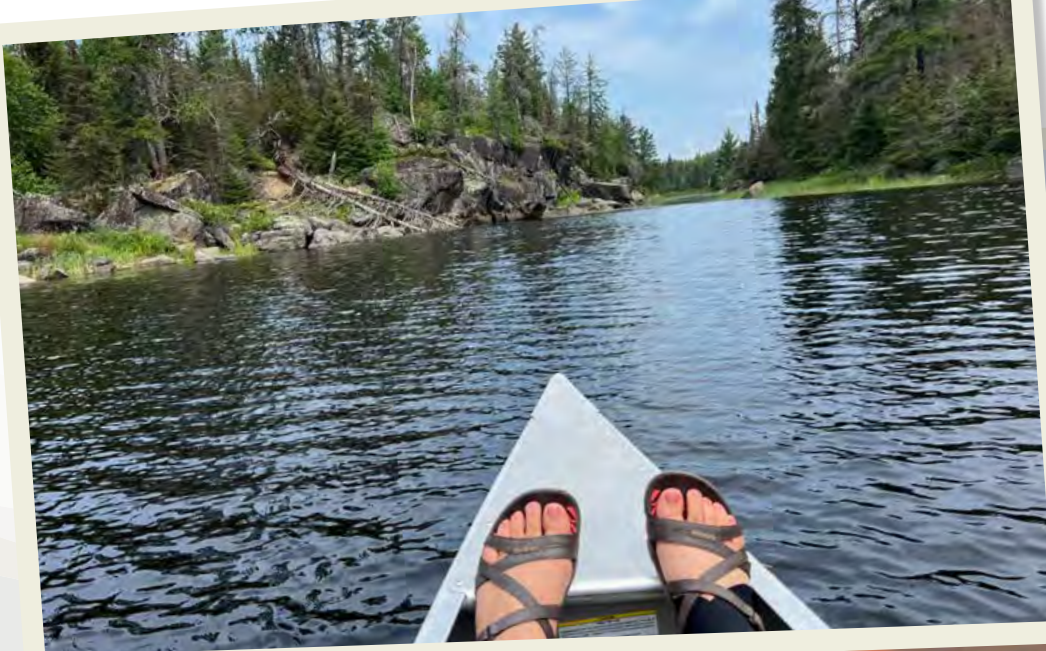
Sat around on her picnic tables to drink it. Sometimes there were other people there also.

- Ted Larson



**PENNY BRUNS**



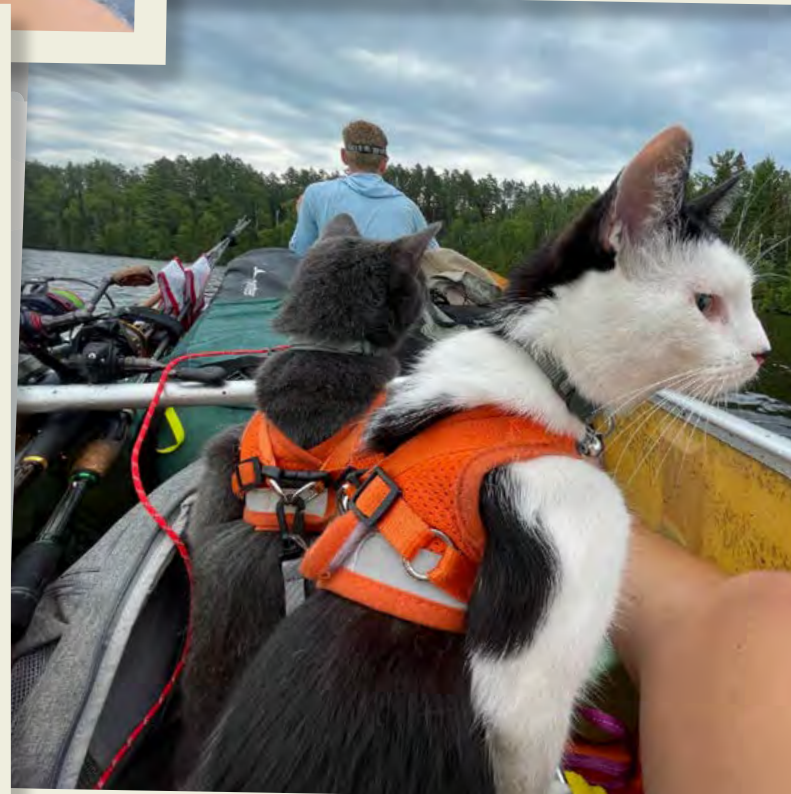






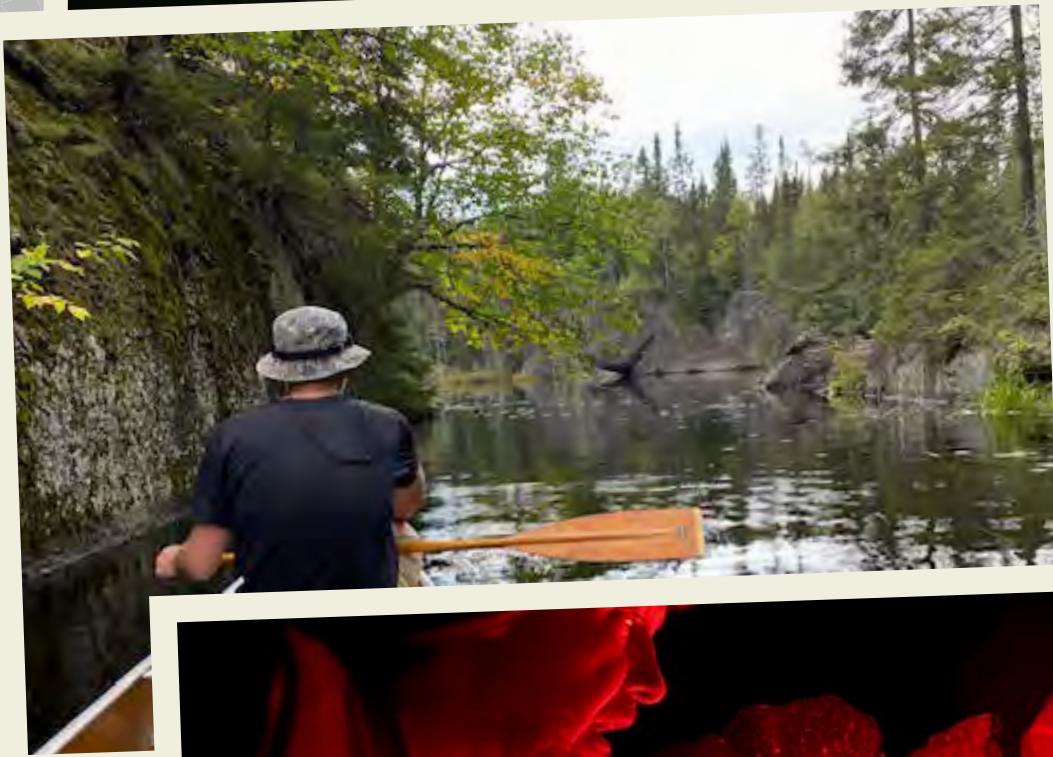
We made our first trip to the BWCA in 2023, and decided to make our trip more fun by bringing our one year old kitties! We camped at Sawbill for a few days before we headed out. We portaged a few times, and found a great peninsula campsite on Alton Lake. We stayed there for 4 days and enjoyed reading, fishing, swimming, and enjoying the great outdoors. We hope to return this summer in 2025 for our second trip. - Ashley, Oliver, Wayne, Daryl

ASHLEY OLSON



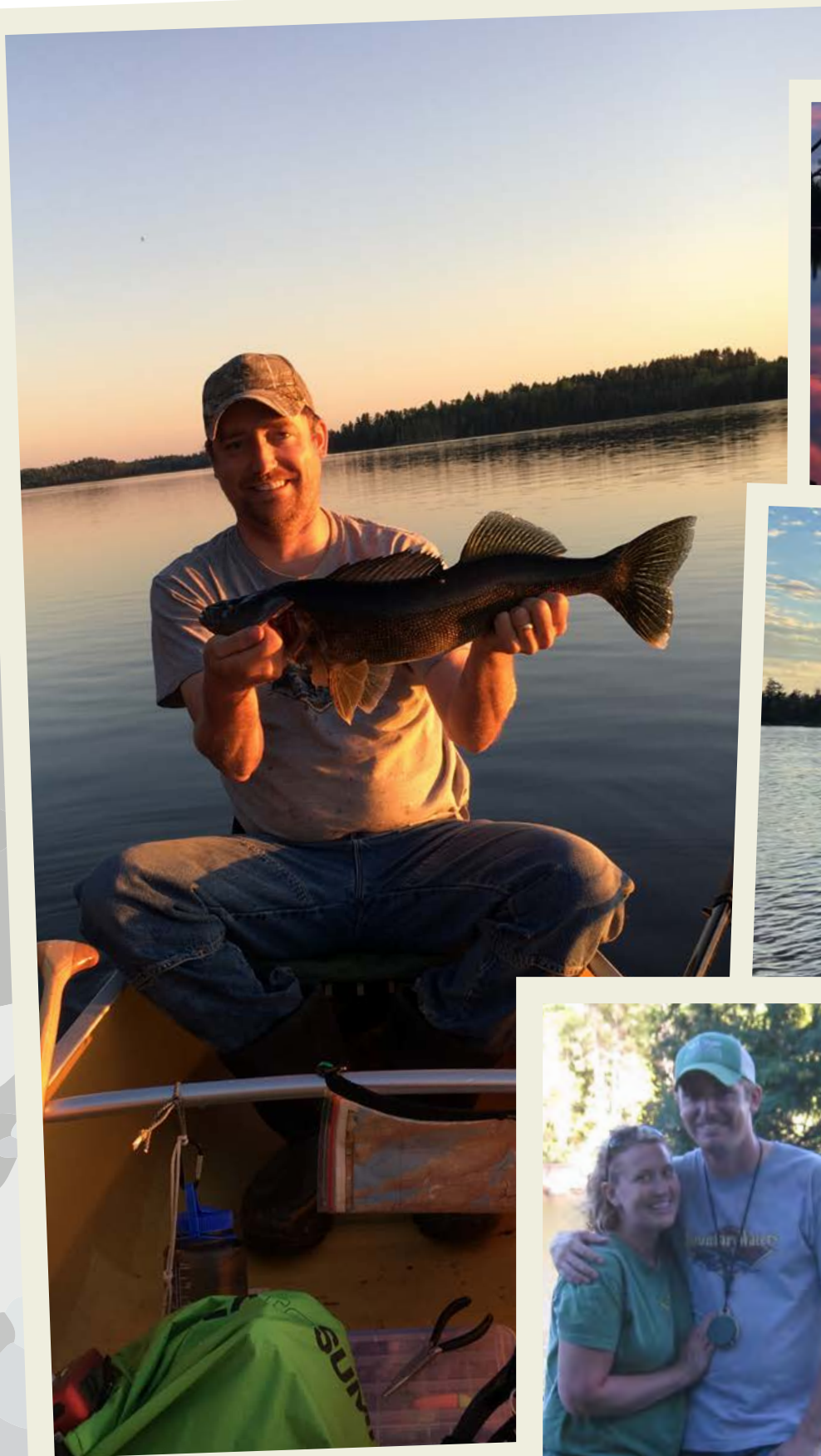


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CHARLES HACKERSON





JACI HANCEY

You can't describe the BWCA, you just have to experience it for yourself. It is truly breathtaking!









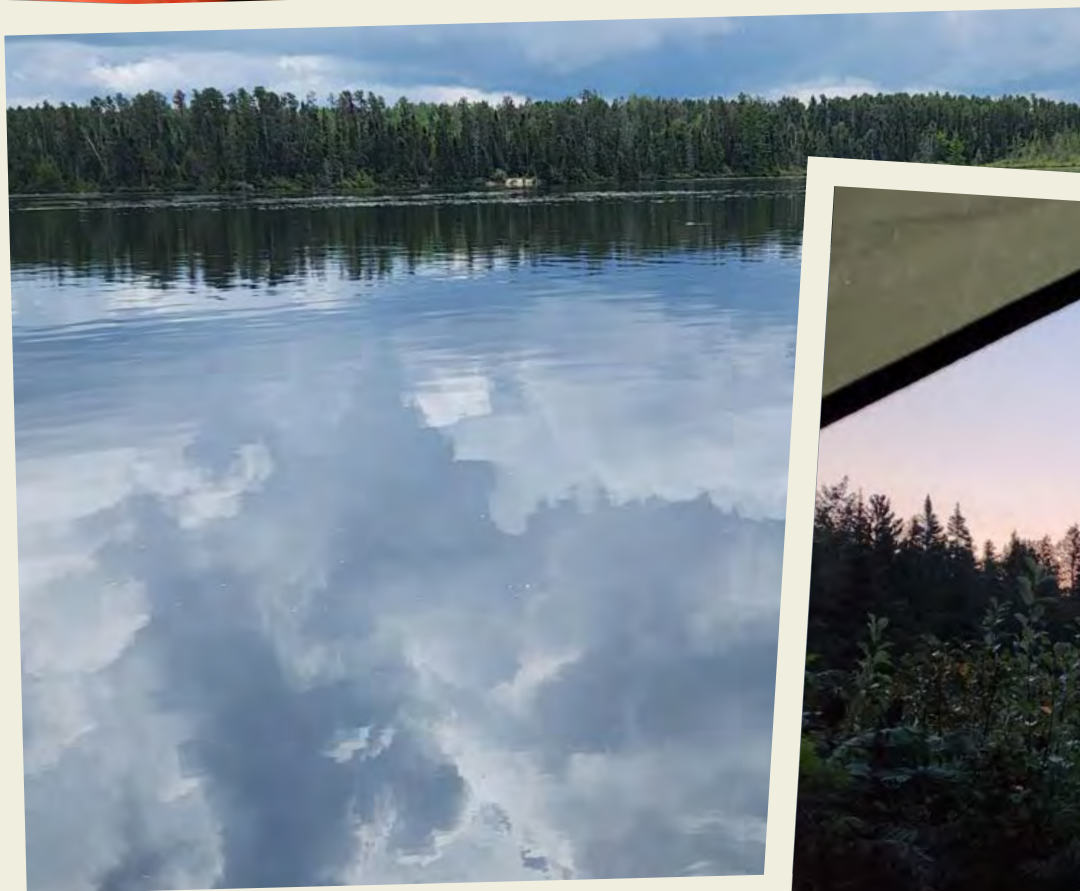
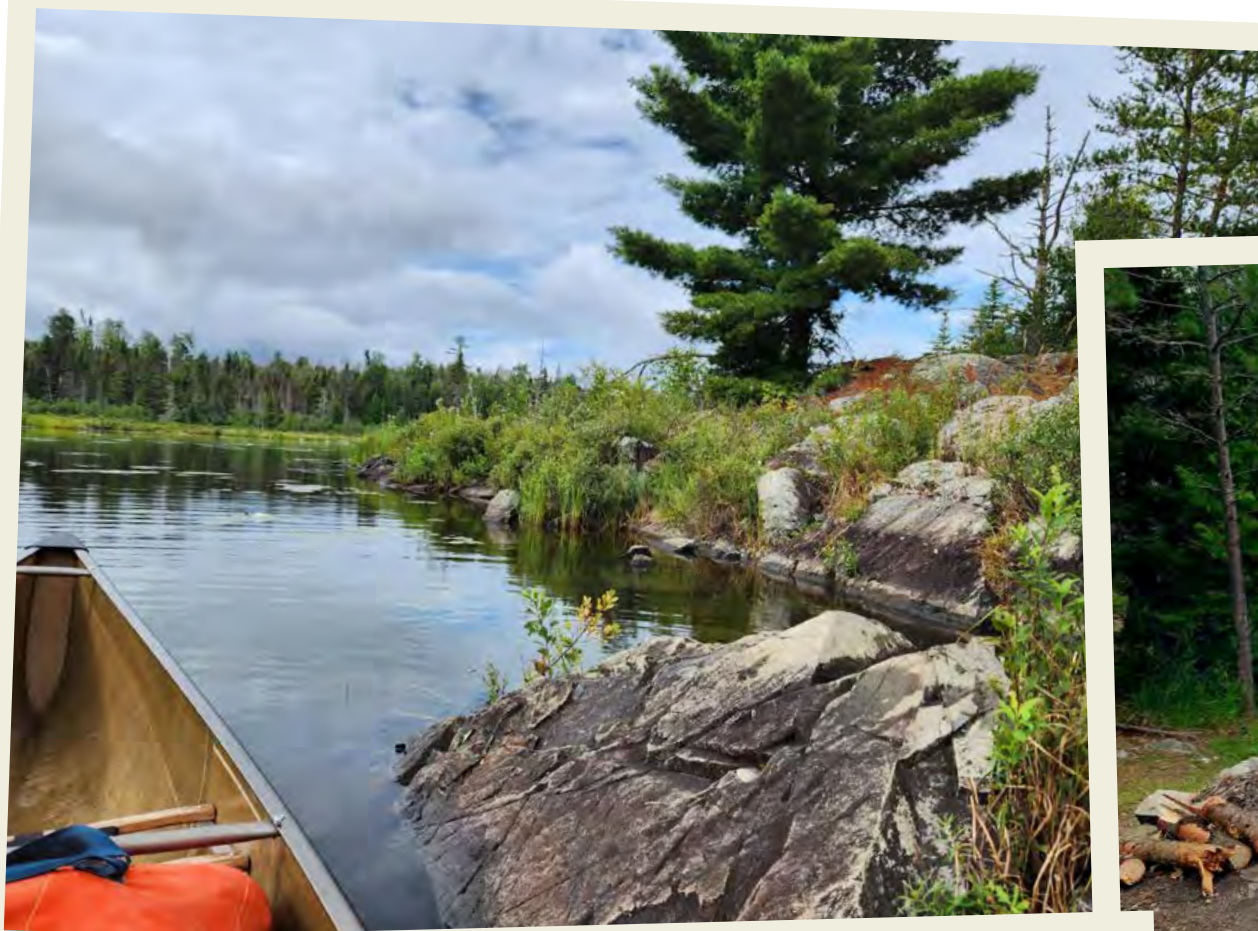
Me and the guys pictured with Dorothy in July of 1986--the last summer she lived in the BWCA before passing away out there that December. From left to right behind Dorothy: Tom, "Vector", Steve and me (Jim). This was my first ever trip to the BWCA and I have now been back over 30 times. - *Jim Gruenke*





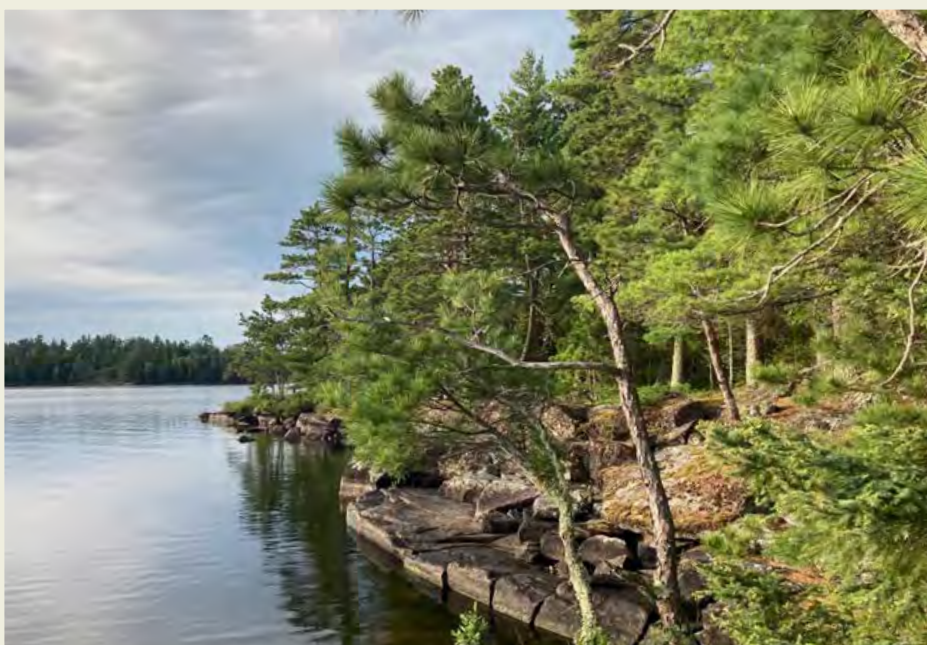
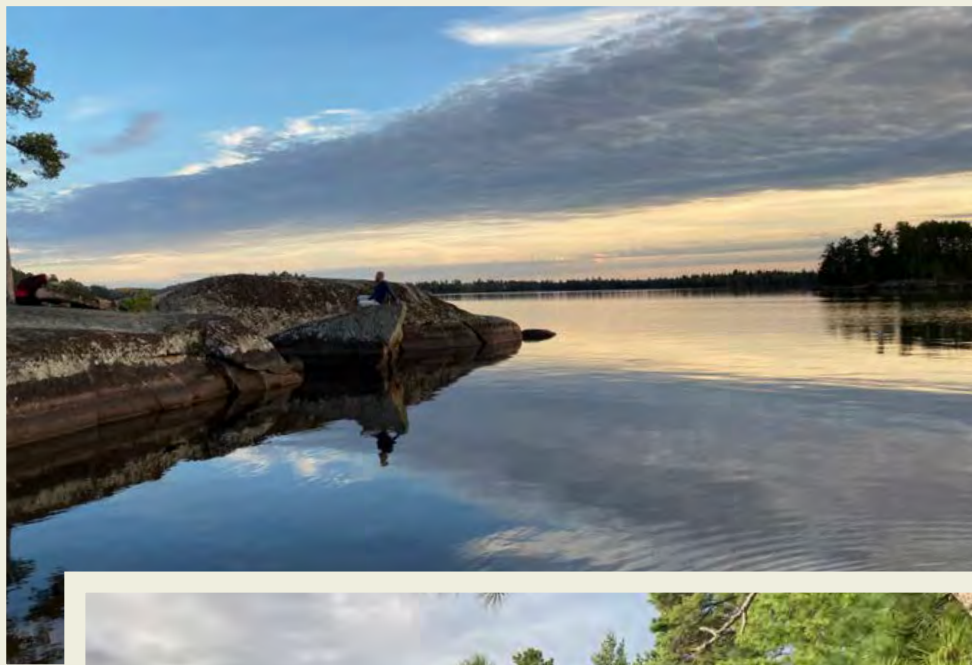
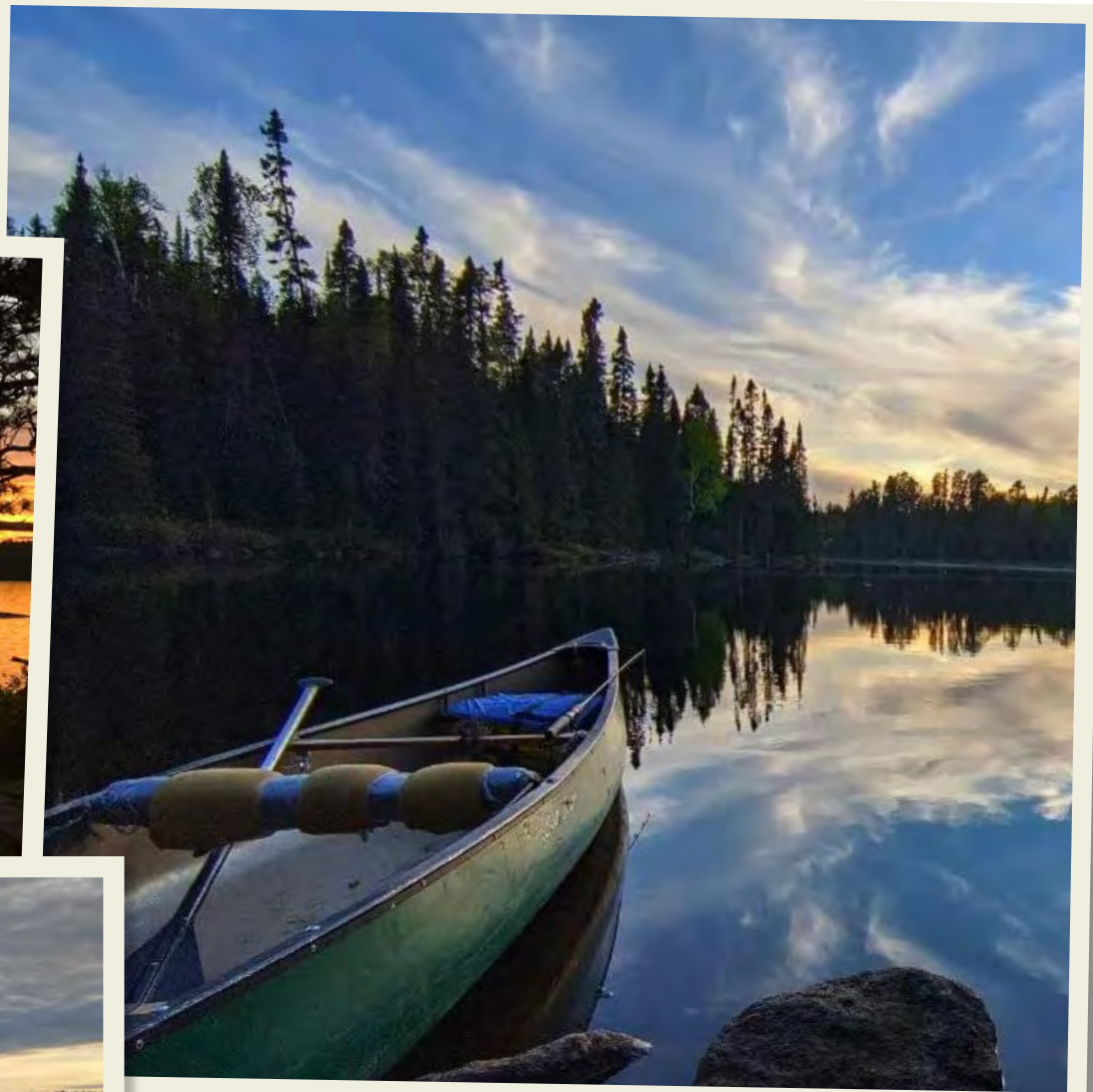
Jim Mans and Dorothy a couple years before she died, standing in front of her "winter" home.







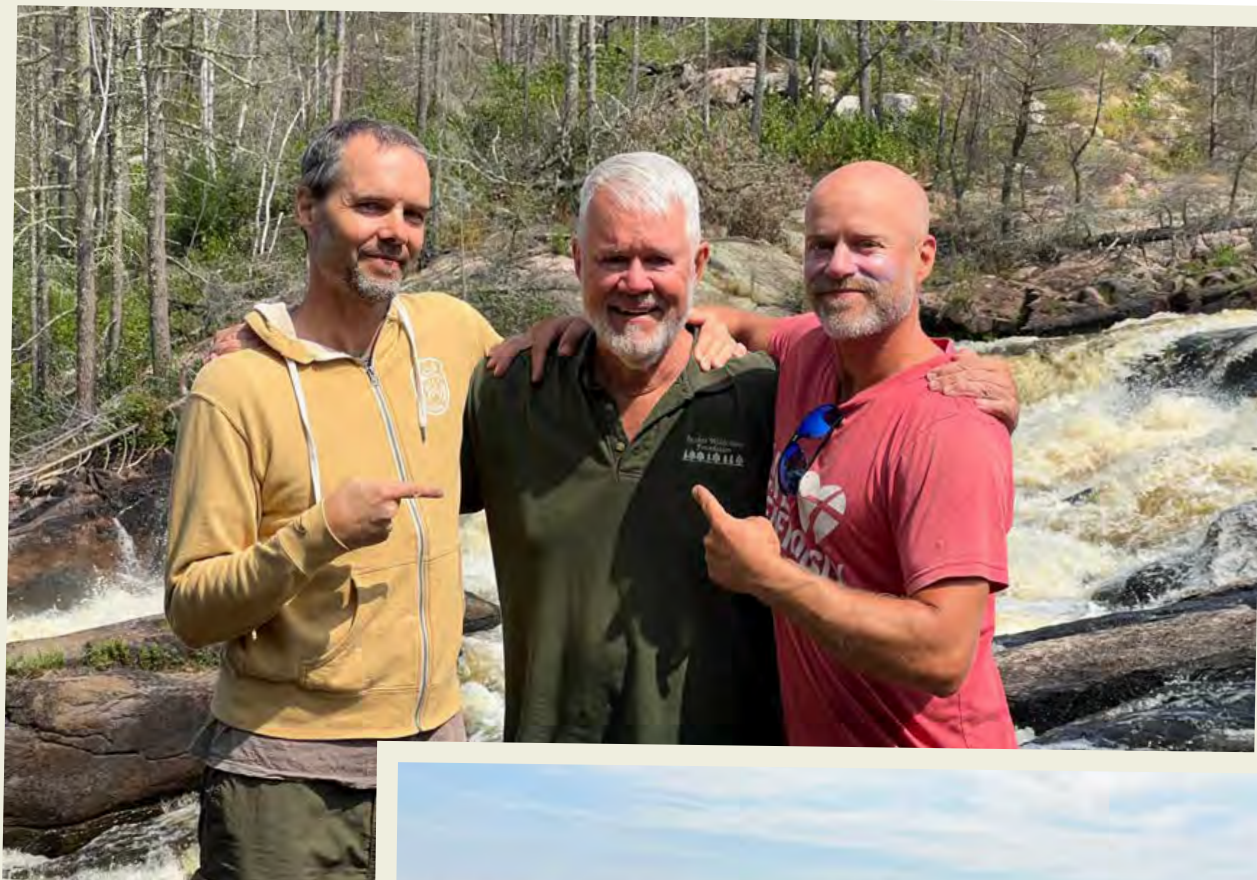
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All photos are from Echo Trail, Basswood area except one which is Gunflint on Tuscarora.

**NELSON RHODUS**





57th year leading trips.



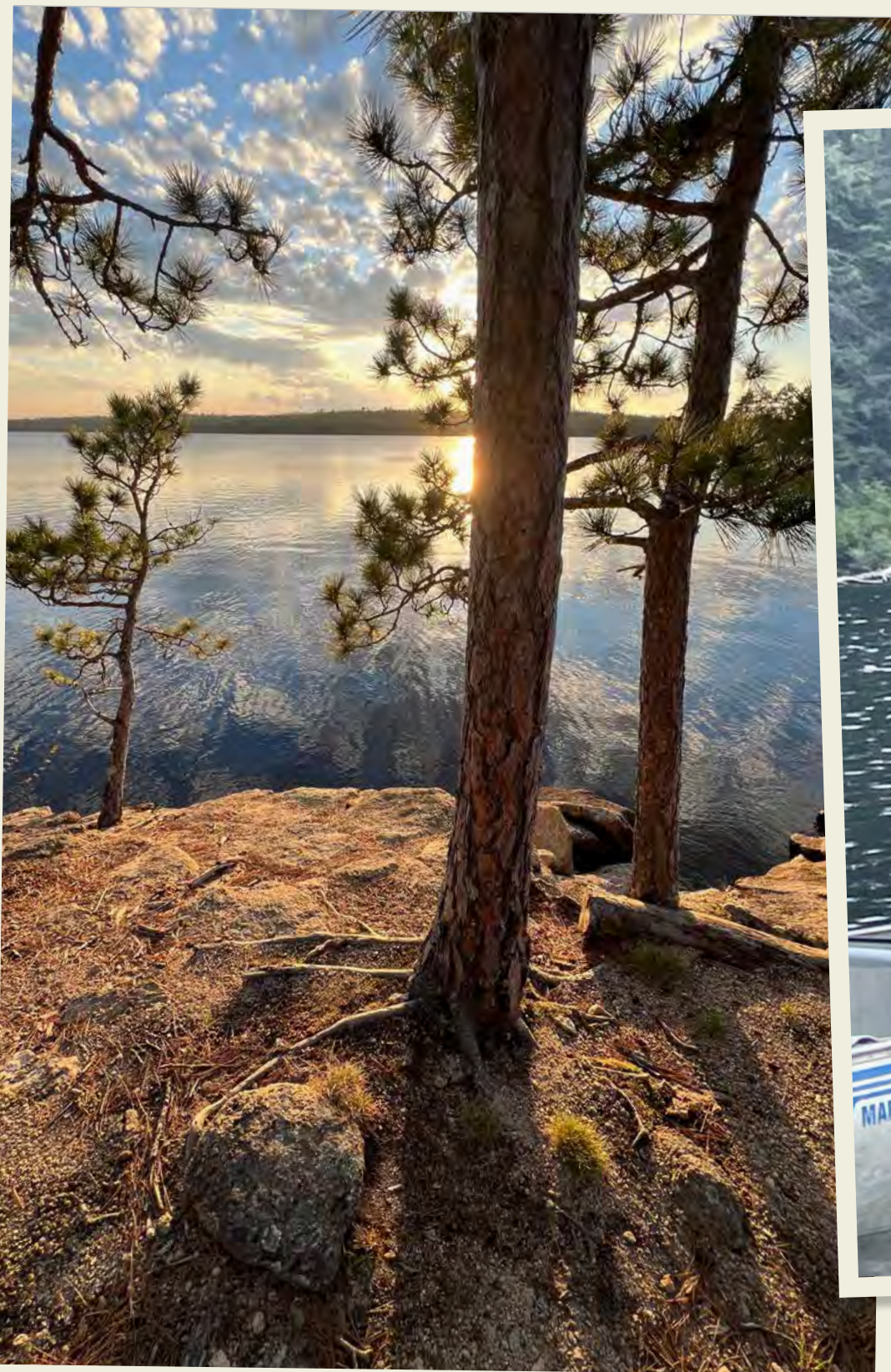
Learning to go solo.





**MARIA AND MARK ZOWNIROWYCZ**





Pipestone Bay

**ROB MCKIM**



Chris McKim, Hegman Lake





**MIKE AND TRINA MCMAHON**





**TORI ORCHARD**