

# LAKETRAILS

LAKETRAILS BASE CAMP

## Portage Runner - Memorial Day Weekend Recap - 2023

### Shoreline Update

By Denny Foreman & Jim Lynch

We were able to relocate the dock shack to its new location. The view of the lake is now wide open! We also moved the dock section that was in front of the dock shack so it now spans from shore to the first crib. A large thank you to all those who helped make this happen!



The most important project on the list was to rebuild the floating dock into a legal 8' wide version. That project was completed. The final placement of that new floating dock awaits a visit from the "barge guy" to remove the old cribbing from the previous dock.



### Laundry House Transformed!

By Bridget Erickson

My crew was given the task of spiffin' up the Laundry House, which had been overrun and desecrated by the local island mice. We did a major deep clean of the entire building - sinks, showers, laundry area, windows, and the exterior of the building. What was once a safe haven for mice and a very unpleasant place to do any sort of cleaning is now a sparkling clean space where anyone would be excited to skip down the path to do a load of KP laundry, wash their trail clothes, or brush their furry fangs at the end of the day.

### Sign up now by visiting the Laketrails website!

Session 3  
Session 4

July 8-16  
July 17-25

Session 5 (Middle School) July 27-Aug 4  
Session 6 Aug 7-15  
[www.laketrails.org](http://www.laketrails.org)





# LAKE TRAILS

BASE CAMP  
ON OAK ISLAND, LAKE OF THE WOODS

## Cabins Ready For Campers!

By Jack Miller

The Cabin Cleaning Crew was very successful over the weekend, all due to the help we received from many people. Bayert washed all the windows in almost all of the cabins, Will helped fix screens and we had an amazing crew inside the cabins! Kasi, Maggi, Beth, and Cecilia all worked very hard on sweeping, mopping, cleaning mattresses, bleaching bunk beds, and generally removing all evidence of mice and spiders. Thank you, everyone, for your hard work!



## Island Outhouse Cleanse

By Joe Miller

Mopped floors gleaming,  
Outhouses shed their grime,  
Mem'ry of clean scent.

Wolf spiders evict,  
Their cobwebs swept from corners,  
Sanctuary freed.

Toilet paper fills,  
Hand sanitizer renewed,  
Oases restored.

## Meet the staff! Troy Douglas; Director of Island Maintenance

**Tell us about your first summer at Laketrails:** *It changed my life. It was the first place and time I could actually be myself, and people loved me for it. A place to get dirty, be silly and understand that any feedback or 'judgment' from others was only to help me be a better person, not a put down. I made lifelong friends, visited some of the most beautiful areas and did some of the craziest things I'd ever done in my life. Wow, what a gift!*

**What is your favorite trail meal?** *Pita pizzas and breakfast burritos. Oh, and coffee.*

**Whats your favorite destination in LOTWs?** *Oak Island. Runner up is anywhere in Lake of the Woods that offers paddling, bogging, portaging, and getting real with others.*

**What are some of your big maintenance projects this summer?** *Finishing the dock, maintaining facilities to ACA requirements, and getting the island back in running shape after the flood. A never-ending adventure.*

**What is your favorite island tool?** *Tossup between the scythe and impact wrench.*



## Calling All Laketrails Alumni!

Please take the time to give us your updated information so we can communicate with you about the following topics: (Including but not limited to..)

-Alumni Events -Networking (Various asks for knowledge and other resources) -Volunteering -Fundraising

Link to the Laketrails Alumni Form (towards bottom of page): <https://laketrails.org/laketrails-alumni/>

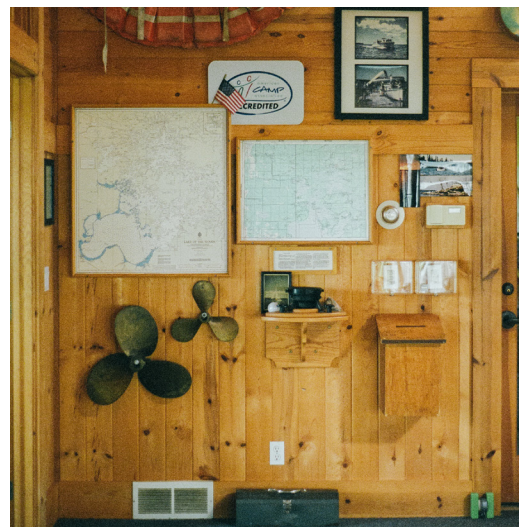
If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please reach out to the Alumni Committee Chair, Janae Streufert (Krantz-Odendahl) - Email: [krantzod@gmail.com](mailto:krantzod@gmail.com)



R&R Crew on their hand built dock



Memorial Day weekend crew at the new dock shack location



Special thanks to Bridget Erickson & Jim Lynch for sharing photos.

Are you handy? Love Laketrails and might consider a week to help out at camp?  
**Join the R&R crew!** Contact Jim Lynch for more info: [lynchrobotics@gmail.com](mailto:lynchrobotics@gmail.com)

**6/28/23**  
**Session 1- Eagan SSI**

We just wrapped up our first session of the summer at Laketrails! We had 41 campers and five teachers, all here through Eagan's Summer Science Program. We had five trips on trail this session with some destinations being the O'Dell Circuit, Brocket, and Helldiver's. There were two trips attempting to bog (one trip hoping to reach Cranberry Lake through Arrow, entering through Boggy bay, but the water was very low making it very challenging to reach Pothole lake, so the trip revised their plans and ended up visiting O'Dell Lake.

The other trip attempted to bog into Chick Lake and gained experience crash camping after facing storms and challenges in the bog. Trips experienced all kinds of wildlife including swans and pelicans, as well as otters in Survival Lake! One group was paddling after Deadman's portage and discovered loons' nests on Shoal Lake. Various berries were also seen: many wild strawberries. It is early in the summer, but one trip crash camped and discovered the largest patch of blueberries and quite a few were ready to eat. One camper particularly confessed his love for the "genny," (the big, heavy food box). He formed a special bond and carried it on every portage- this made its way into the group's trip skit at the closing campfire.

We had a lot of fishing this session and campers found success! We had an especially good eco share from two of our campers at our closing campfire, going in depth about fish anatomy, and differences in teeth between types of fish. All trips returned to camp on a windy, rainy, overcast Day 7. There was palpable excitement as guides, campers, and teachers welcomed each other back to the island and shared their experiences.

On Day 8, our Eagan teachers facilitated SSI (Summer Science Institute) Olympics which is a tradition for their program. Each of the five trips formed teams and competed in various events for a trophy. Events included: island trivia, cat and mouse, voyageur wrestling, and a rock-paper-scissors tournament played with evolution: eggs evolving to chicken, chicken evolving to t-rex. If you lost you would revert backwards i.e. chicken turning back into an egg, etc. Competition was intense, especially the guide trivia round with Laketrails trivia that only staff would know. In order to answer for trivia, all participants stood surrounding a table and had to have their thumbs on the table. They had to grab a flashlight in the center to answer. There were some lightning fast reflexes and guide piles, fighting for the flashlight. The air was thick waiting for the teachers to tally up the scores, and finally it was revealed that Trip 2 was the winner!

All in all this was a really positive group this session. Words cannot describe how incredible it was to have campers on the island and to be up and running once more. The pure spirit and life of the island is something to be felt. The consistent, unwavering sound of the bell has been such a life-giving, replenishing, and comforting sound for all of us. We are very glad to be off on a good foot and cannot wait to continue building on that foundation for the rest of the summer.

Wishing you tailwinds on your journey and mud between your toes!

—Sarah Kremer, Program Director

## Laketrails Session 2

Staff and campers wrapped up our second session here at Laketrails, and Session 3 trips are now on trail. We had a very small group for Session 2, so we sent out only two trips—one of campers and one of guides. The campers completed a 6-day trip and explored Shoal Lake, Fox, Nola, Brocket and Survival Lakes. The staff trip traveled south and enjoyed the wonders of Painted Rock Channel, the Sunset Chain and also Turtle Lake. They worked on navigation and learned some bush-crashing techniques during a land navigation exercise.

Highlights from the camper trip included great fishing. Northern pike, smallmouth bass, and walleye were caught, much to the campers' excitement. They also experienced a big thunderstorm while camped at Brocket. Wildlife encounters were of the small variety with chipmunks visiting at Picture Rock and loons causing commotion while defending their territory in Fox Lake.

Highlights from the staff trip included sunrise and sunset paddles, seeing the pictographs in Painted Rock Channel, and noticing a ruby-throated hummingbird hovering near the trees on one of the islands. Guides could hear the wings before seeing the bird, and it stayed hovering by the trees for a very long time. They also saw a loon family with a small and sweet little baby loon! Numerous bear tracks were noticed on trail, especially on some sandy beaches.

All in all, it was a successful session, and it was really fun to see the growth in campers and staff after the canoe trips.

Session 3 trips are now on trail, leaving for the Aulneau and also heading south. Here's wishing campers and guides safe travels and adventures ahead!