



SHAVINGS

a newsletter from north house folk school
winter 2023

NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL

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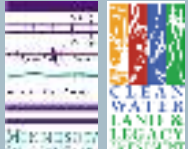
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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

North House Folk School is supported in part by hundreds of contributing members, as well as through the generous support of the following foundations: American Scandinavian Foundation, Anderson Charitable Trust of Security Bank & Trust, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation, DEED Minnesota Main Street Economic Revitalization Project, Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation, Jim and Linda Lee Family Foundation, Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, Manitou Fund, Mardag Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, McKnight Foundation, and the MN State Arts Board.

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Front Cover: *North House's vibrant efforts are directly connected to the northern landscape and the place we call home. Our programs, community and mission are at their best when accented by Lake Superior's horizon and affirmed by the seasons of the North.*

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On the Harbor

We were poised and ready. Planning and gathering had wrapped up the night before. Our glances said it all. True, our extra credit efforts to tackle homework and homestead projects meant we quite literally were leaving on our journey later than ever before, but it's not every day that a canoe trip is the featured request in a daughter's eighteenth birthday celebration. Three hours later, as the fall colors glimmered in the gathering darkness and our dinner simmered over the campfire, we relished all that had led us here. Windlessly smooth, the lake was covered in silence, and the distant single notes of unseen birds seemed to call forth the stars. It was a day to count our gifts.

But stars don't just shine in the night sky. Nor are planning and gathering the exclusive realm of canoe trips. Much like our paddle onto northern waters, a similar journey was underway on the North House campus. In mid-September as our annual Unplugged celebration culminated under the big top, North House was poised and ready as well. In 36 hours, the trappings of celebration (chairs to tables, speakers to sound boards) vanished and in their place sturdy piles of white pine timbers and carefully sharpened chisels appeared. On Monday mornings for three weeks in a row, teams of 20 – experienced students to seasoned instructors – gathered to quite literally Frame the Future. Nearby, the equally essential tasks of excavation and building footings moved forward. 270 timbers later, we await the anticipated November raising of our new Welcome Center, the central project in our Framing the Future journey.

As this issue of Shavings brings to life, North House has much to be thankful for and there is still an abundance of important work ahead. To date, we have secured \$3.5 million towards our \$7 million Framing the Future Campaign, and a \$100,000 challenge match is on the table. Two inspiring classrooms, centralized offices for staff, an enlarged school store, a large and welcoming front door and space for our intern program to grow. Summer 2024 is our target.

North House's vitality has been fueled by the vision and generosity of countless folks. Our gifts are many. Now our work calls all of us to find new ways to step forward and Frame the Future. Hope to see you on campus soon!

With appreciation,

Greg Wright
Executive Director



Hand Tools and Timbers: Framing the Welcome Center

The smell of sawdust hung in the air while shavings coated the ground of the Commons. Beneath the Unplugged tent, a group of intrepid timber framers got to work on North House's biggest timber framing project to date: building the new Welcome Center that will replace the little Yellow House as the new front door to campus.

Between September 18 and October 7, three groups of 20 people got to work under the Unplugged tent, cutting the white pine timbers that will form the bones of the Welcome Center. Under the instruction of Tom Healy and Peter Henrikson, the group cut a jaw-dropping 270 pieces in three short weeks. As of this writing, those pieces are stacked on the North House campus and awaiting raising during the fall of 2023.

Timber framing has been an integral part of North House since its inception. Hundreds of timber framing students have passed through the doors of North House since 1998, and timber-framed buildings can be found all over campus, from the timber-framed Blacksmith Shop and Fish House to the smaller structures and entryways that dot the property.

Tom Healy, one of the two instructors leading the Welcome Center project, has been a core part of the timber framing program since the school's earliest days. He moved to Grand Marais in 1997, and together with Peter Henrikson got North House's first timber framing class on the books for the spring of 1998 (that class built what would become the North House Blacksmith Shop). After that, Healy and Henrikson had the idea for a build-your-

own timber framing program—together with Hedstrom Lumber Company, they created two different designs for the build-your-own timber framing classes. The rest, as they say, was history.

“Here we are almost 27 years later, starting on the replacement for the Yellow House on the Eckel property that we acquired 25 years ago—it’s very cool,” Healy said.

As with every experience at North House, the process of framing the new Welcome Center wasn’t just about the building; it was also about community. Ben Finley is a volunteer participating in the first and second weeks of the project. As soon as he heard about the Welcome Center project he knew he wanted to be a part of it.

“It’s been a blast so far making connections and meeting new people. There’s nothing better than starting your day right on the lake, getting coffee, and getting rolling,” he said. “Grand Marais has been a big part of my life, and will continue to be a big part of my life, and every time I come back I’ll be able to point at the building and say, ‘I made part of that.’”



Above: Service learning volunteers spent a week at a time cutting the white pine timbers for the new Welcome Center, building community and connections along the way, Photo by Ben Finley.

Below: The future Welcome Center will be an accessible front door to campus, along with increased classroom space and a larger school store.



Intern Slöjd Projects

If you've spent much time around North House, you may have come across the word "slöjd." Slöjd is a Swedish term that roughly translates to "handcraft." Each year, the North House interns complete their 10-month internship with a capstone project known as a "Slöjd Project." This year's interns give us a glimpse into their slöjd projects. Thank you to The Barbo Osher Pro Suecia Foundation for supporting this year's slöjd projects.

Mazzy Flynn



Throughout my internship, I have been drawn to making bags. I have found the construction process fascinating; the creation of a 3D object out of 2D materials and the math and manipulation of materials this entails has drawn me in. For my slöjd project, I am continuing on this craft exploration with a newer material to me: leather. My goal is to

create three hand-sewn leather crossbody bags, all with separate designs and hardware elements. I have found peace in the meditative process of leatherwork—the repetitive back and forth of the needles and thread as I sew pieces together, the intentionality of every cut and hole punched, and the way the leather fibers slowly condense as I wet mold my pieces. I truly enjoy this process. I have learned so much during this project, including everything from hardware and rivets to the differences in leather from different areas on the hide to the structural necessities of a bag. I have so much more to learn that I am excited to explore even further after my internship.

Laura Korynta



"Baskets chose me" is often what I say when asked about my craft focus, and among other basketmakers this is a common refrain. As a sculptor and amateur naturalist, basketmaking combines my love of being out in nature along with my love of making things by hand. For my slöjd project, I decided to work on three basket materials

of the boreal forest—black ash, birch bark, and willow—based on the concepts of foraging, gathering, and sharing. My intention is to develop relationships with the materials by investigating their temperament, how they are harvested, and what shapes suit them best, and also develop relationships with other artisans by foraging with local artisans, sharing community skill share basket nights, and gathering stories from the countless naturalists in Grand Marais.

Emma Mathews-Lingen



The central goal of my slöjd project was to strengthen and develop my personal woodworking practice. I wanted to focus on skill building and understanding of the craft, so as a way to do that I chose to build jewelry/trinket boxes. In taking a step back to look at my (extremely new) woodworking practice, I realized I needed to include building a table-top workbench for holding pieces in place as I work. So much of successful crafting is about having the right infrastructure and tools to work with. I built the bench from plans that I purchased online and found it to be a good way to ease into my project.

I have been lucky enough to work with Jim Sannerud on my boxes, and have deeply appreciated the depth of detail he has gone into the process of a project. Working with him, I have been set up with a strong base and background knowledge to plan and execute a woodworking project from ground zero.

Dani Sanchez



To me, slöjd inspires self-reliance. It starts with a need—an item missing from our home that would make life easier, for example—and the drive to learn to make it for ourselves. For my slöjd project, I aim to create a variety of tools that will aid my craft journey as well as potentially fulfill the tool-needs of the community. Among my projects, I have forged a blacksmithing hammer and a carving axe, both of which will likely outlive me.

Though my cohort and I have been exposed to a wide array of crafts throughout this program, willow basketry is one that has hooked us all. We have adopted willow rod bits as a permanent addition to our living room floor and share a singular bodkin. This is what inspired me to forge a stock of basketry tools for future students and interns to use as my community contribution. These will include bodkins, rapping irons, and a willow brake—all of which will also be available for use during Laura's Basket Club!

Work Study: A Day in the Life

At North House, we believe craft education should be accessible to anyone with an interest in learning. Work Study allows people to earn course credit by helping out around campus.

North House offers two different kinds of Work Study: two-week extended sessions, where students stay in Grand Marais and help out while taking classes, and weekly drop-in sessions, where anyone can stop by and help out for a few hours once a week. Both options give people the chance to get involved with the school, learn new skills, and even begin a new creative pursuit.

So what is Work Study really like?

Extended Work Study

Kelly Grucelski is a teacher with a passion for fiber arts. She was first introduced to North House at Fiber Week 2018, and started looking for ways to get more involved. It was then that she learned about Work Study and decided to sign up for an extended session. Since then, she's completed four extended Work Study sessions over five summers.

"I am a school teacher, so affording the classes can be challenging, but I do have lots of time in the summer," Kelly said. "I thought it would be great to get to come up and help out on campus during the summer while earning credit for future courses. I love to volunteer so I thought it would be a good fit for me."

During extended Work Study sessions, program participants stay in Grand Marais for an average of two weeks. Rustic lodging

is provided, and participants spend each day helping out with a variety of tasks around the school—anything from sweeping floors to helping with pizza bakes to cleaning the deck of the schooner Hjørdis. Each session is open to two participants, so pairs of friends or couples can apply together.

"The daily routine is to 'wake up' the campus by brewing lots and lots of coffee and cleaning the classrooms and bathrooms," Kelly said. "Weekends usually have more activities on campus, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays there is a lot to do to set up the classrooms and prepare for classes. Mondays and Tuesdays were more relaxed with cleaning up and putting away the classroom spaces, and also having some free time to enjoy Grand Marais!"

The extended stay in Grand Marais means that participants get to be immersed in campus life and craft, forging connections with instructors, students, and visitors. Participants can plan their Work Study experience around a class that they want to take and spend some of their time in class. The hours spent helping out the rest of the week go toward tuition—for each hour of work, participants earn an hour of tuition credit worth \$12.86 per hour.

Weekly Drop-in Sessions

In addition to the extended Work Study sessions, North House also offers weekly drop-in sessions. Typically held on a Wednesday afternoon, participants in the drop-in sessions help get the campus ready for the week of classes ahead. Participants get at least two hours of Work Study credit each drop-in session, and can save up credit over time to go toward course tuition.

Liz O'Brien is a Cook County resident who participates in the weekly drop-in



Educator Kelly Grucelski has completed several extended Work Study sessions, helping her pursue her passion for fiber arts by taking classes at North House.

sessions. As someone with a passion for fiber art, including her own dye business, the classes Liz has taken at North House have helped her continue to grow her craft. (In September, Liz became a Resident Artisan in the Artisan Development Program.) Liz learned about Work Study after moving to Cook County and was looking for ways to get involved with North House and the community.

“I lived up the Gunflint Trail at the time, and was looking for ways to get out of my cabin and get involved and meet new people,” she said. “It’s a great thing for folks who are in a period of transition to do. It’s very welcoming and it’s great to have something to look forward to every week.”

The Wednesday afternoon sessions are often where weekly participants and extended participants cross paths, working together to clean the campus and rearrange

the classrooms for the week ahead. For Liz, Work Study provides the double benefit of getting to meet people in the community while also earning credit toward course tuition. It’s also a good way to stay up-to-date on happenings at North House.

“Alex will email you about last-minute openings in classes, which is great especially if you’re local and can make it work,” Liz said.

Weekly drop-in sessions typically meet from 1-3pm on Wednesdays on the North House campus. No registration is required. Extended Work Study sessions have openings throughout the year, and those interested can apply on the North House website.

Find all information about Work Study at northhouse.org/get-involved/work-study

Rookie in the Wilderness

A conversation with travel writer
and adventurer Tim Cahill

When it comes to travel, they say that good adventures make great memories while bad ones make great stories. Tim Cahill is a travel writer who has been on plenty of adventures—and has plenty of stories.

Cahill is this year's featured speaker at the Winters' Gathering & Arctic Film Festival. He is a travel writer, adventurer, and co-founder of *Outside* magazine. He's also the author of nine books such as *Jaguars Ripped My Flesh* and *A Wolverine is Eating My Leg*, and has called himself the "least competent adventurer of his generation." But he has also witnessed the power of adventure to connect us to the landscapes around us—and to protect those landscapes when they need it.

After growing up hoping to be a writer someday, Tim Cahill got his first writing job out of college at *Rolling Stone*. While he was there, *Rolling Stone* decided to start a new magazine called *Outside*.

"I was one of two people in the Rolling Stone office who liked to go outdoors," he said.

It wasn't much adventure experience, but it was enough to land him a role as a founding editor of *Outside*, whose first issue was published in 1977. But his



Travel writer Tim Cahill has documented his many years of adventures and misadventures in his memoirs

relative inexperience as an adventurer turned out to be an asset. Cahill became tasked with writing what he called "rookie in the wilderness" stories, where he'd get sent out on expeditions to document his experiences and share what he'd learned.

Today, access to abundant online information has made outdoor adventure accessible to many. In the 1970s, however, that wasn't the case, and Cahill's stories helped crack open the door of the wilderness to new people.

"A lot of my early stories were giving people permission to explore and do this kind of thing," Cahill said. "And if I did it properly, I could engender some love for the landscape and enlist my readers in a kind of gentle conspiracy of caring for the outdoors."

And it's this care for the landscape that makes outdoor recreation so powerful, beyond its role as a mere pastime. Cahill

has seen many changes through his years as a travel writer, including the increase of information and infrastructure that has made far-flung places more accessible. While these changes inevitably come with questions about conservation and stewardship, he said that one of the best things about travel becoming more accessible is the firsthand connection that people have developed to the land.

“People get invested in a place because they’ve been there—they’ve descended the river, they’ve climbed the mountain, they’ve walked the path. If a place

becomes endangered for any reason, you can appeal to more people and find more people invested in that place because they know what it is,” he said.

On the eve of his 80th birthday, Tim Cahill will be on the North House campus to chronicle his life of adventures and misadventures. Join Tim on November 18 for *50 Years of Adventure Travel*, the Winterers’ Gathering featured presentation. You can find more details about Winterers’ Gathering on the next page.



Outdoor adventure leads to a deeper sense of place and connection with the land.



WINTERERS' GATHERING & ARCTIC FILM FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023

Winter is the longest and most defining season in the north. Celebrate the crafts, customs, landscape, history, and stories that have been inspired by winter at the Winterers' Gathering and Arctic Film Festival.

Featuring winter-centric coursework, a tent camp, gear sale, dancing, film festival, and our Featured Speaker Tim Cahill, this is a classic event to welcome the start of the chilliest season.



Weekend Highlights

Arctic Film Festival

This one-of-a-kind festival features films from around the globe that visually tell the story of the North. Documentaries, features, and shorts showcase arctic landscapes, traditional cultures, northern adventures, and changing climates. Film showings happening throughout the weekend.

Friday Evening Kickoff | Friday, November 17, 6pm start

Join other “Winterers” to roast your dinner over the firepit, delight in a series of Arctic Short Films projected outdoors. Afterwards, enjoy the Snowshoe Shuffle Contra Dance or the Cold Snap Poetry Slam.

The Great Gear & Ski Sale | Saturday, November 18, 10:30-11:30am

The Great Gear & Ski Sale features ski equipment, tents, skates, and other outdoor winter gear. Part sale, part fundraiser, this event supports North House Folk School and the Lutsen Junior Alipine Ski Team.

Deep Freeze Chili Feed | Saturday, November 18, 5:30pm start

Bundle up and grab your bowl for this traditional winter favorite: chili & freshly baked cornbread. Hot chili (your choice: vegetarian or meat) is cooked up in the kettle and enjoyed in the company of other hearty winterers.

Featured Speaker Tim Cahill | Saturday, November 18, 7pm

On the eve of his 80th birthday, outdoor writer Tim Cahill will chronicle his life as the least competent adventurer of his generation. In *50 Years of Adventure Travel*, Tim will share odd, inspiring, and offbeat stories.

Campus Tours

Join us for a tour of the construction efforts during Winterers’ Gathering to get a first glimpse of the new space! Join Greg Wright and Tom Morse Friday, November 17 at 5pm or Saturday, November 18 at 11am. Group sizes will be limited to ensure there is time for questions and conversations. We look forward to seeing you there. Save your spot on the tour by visiting northhouse.org/framing-the-future



Framing the Future

By Tom Morse

The sense of excitement and curiosity about the new building has been palpable for the last several weeks. Every day, folks linger on the side of Highway 61 to see what's happening, and hundreds dropped by the tent to watch the timber framers in action. While it's easy to summarize the physical additions to campus—two new classrooms, an expanded school store, improved intern space—Framing the Future is about so much more. Here's what a few campaign supporters had to say:

Believing in North House

"It's not every day that you get to work on a building that's going to last for one hundred years," said longtime student and supporter Jane Laurence, "and it's fun to think of all the people who are going

to learn and make friendships in the space we're creating."

In many ways, Framing the Future is about making sure that craft will always have a home on the harbor in Grand Marais, and that campus is ready to welcome thousands more students over the coming decades.

"I'm not sure if it's going to change the world," Jane said, "but I know it's going to change lives. There's no mission I believe in more than North House."

Making the Harbor Accessible

"With North House, the harbor is more accessible than it's ever been in my memory," shared Buck Benson, a former board member and retired local business owner. "Growing up here, it wasn't a space that was really inviting, but now I

love being able to come down to campus and be by the lake.”

Framing the Future will make the harbor even more welcoming and physically accessible with an elevator connecting everyone with the big lake. As Greg Wright likes to highlight in campus tours, “We’re all going to need that elevator at some point—it’s an important way of saying you belong here, no matter your age or mobility.”

Growing the Future of Craft

“At North House, people come together from near and far to learn new skills they’ve always wanted to explore, with classmates who can become friends,” said volunteer and campaign supporter Randi Lyders. “I’m thrilled by the vision of this campaign. The growing diversity of programs will build on North House strengths for years to come.”

The spaces have been thoughtfully designed to ensure the quality of connections made on campus by adding

classrooms with space for gathering and space for work. The additional classrooms will also help to address the biggest challenge at North House of getting into coursework. With the capacity to host almost 100 additional classes each year, you can expect a richness of coursework and more opportunities to get your hands on craft.

What’s your reason for joining Framing the Future? Send us a note to tmorse@northhouse.org. We look forward to sharing your story.

Challenge Match

Make your gift or multi-year commitment to Framing the Future by the end of November to have your gift matched dollar for dollar by a generous donor! Your help is needed to reach the \$100,000 goal. Visit the campaign website for more information on how you can get involved, as well as more information about creating a campaign pledge.

Give to the Max to Make Craft Accessible

Each year Give to the Max (GiveMN) helps thousands of nonprofits raise millions of dollars from generous folks like you. It’s a day that celebrates all that philanthropy accomplishes across the state, and it comes with some added fun—each donation received is an entry for the \$500 and \$1000 prize drawings that support great organizations. We’ve even seen a \$10 donation result in North House winning \$500, so no matter what level you’re able to give we hope you’ll join in.

North House uses Give to the Max day to help fuel our scholarship and Work Study programs, making sure that craft is accessible to all with a desire to learn. With a generous match available from the Manitou Fund, your support will be doubled up to our goal of \$25,000! Reaching this goal will power over 50 scholarships in the coming year!

To add to the fun, Greg and Tom will be hosting a Zoom conversation November 15 at 7pm to share updates, preview Winterers’ Gathering, and look forward to what the next year holds in store. Register at Northhouse.org/givemn



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