1974 Midwest Conclave

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1974 Midwest Conclave
by DAVE HARKEMA

The 23rd Annual Midwestern Forester’s Conclave was hosted by the University of Michigan at their Fresh Air camp. Iowa State was well represented in competition with someone in almost every event. Eleven students attended: Carla Derby, Pat Rutz, April McDonald, Greg McGranahan, John Jennett, Rich Gettle, Jon Gehring, Tim Trachsel, Larry Bajuk, Jordy Ryder, and Dave Harkema.

This year we bearly achieved our goal by getting rid of the greasy bearskin. Jon Gehring’s fourth place finish in the tobacco spit put us on the score board, but it wasn’t until the last event called “Special Event” that we finally got rid of the “skin.” The Special Event was a combination of canoe racing, tree felling, and water boiling. Jordy (up front) Ryder and Dave Harkema paddled the canoe, John Jennett dropped the timber, and Jon Gehring and Larry Bajuk finally got the water to boil. For the Special Event we managed a second place. Rich Gettle has probably never worked as hard in his life as when he entered the log chopping contest, a-a-ah, the axe wasn’t sharp yet.

The trip was as enjoyable as the actual competition. Few people know what kind of faces Pat, Carla, and April can muster up while travelling in Greg’s and Tim’s cars.

Missouri University finished first with Iowa State a close seventh.
C'mon Granny, pull!

Conclave crew at Warren Dunes, Michigan.

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