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Diamond Year Forestry Summer Camp: A Tradition Started 75 Years Ago

David Countryman
Iowa State University

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Diamond Year Forestry Summer Camp: A Tradition Started 75 Years Ago

On June 5, 1989, 21 enthusiastic students (19 male and 2 female) checked in at the Cloquet Forestry Center to begin the Diamond Year Forestry Summer Camp of Iowa State University. Although this is the 75th year since the first camp was held in 1914, this is the 81st Iowa State Forestry Summer Camp. The confusion results from two sources: (1) due to the demands of World War II and limited enrollment in Forestry, no Camp was held during a 3-year period (1943-1945), and (2) between 1939 and 1951, eight Junior Camps were held for junior and senior students who had completed the Freshman Camp.

The Cloquet Forestry Center (near Cloquet, Minnesota) is operated by the University of Minnesota. Scott Reed and his staff maintain beautiful facilities in an area that provides excellent opportunities for our Summer Camp program. We had the use of classroom and library facilities, dorms for the students, a mess hall, a cabin for the staff, and recreation facilities (including basketball, softball, volleyball, pool, and table tennis).

Coursework kept staff and students busy exploring forestry as it is understood in concept and applied in the field. There were no staff families at camp this year, and the staff lived together in the same cabin, providing the opportunity to coordinate coursework and blend many aspects of forestry into each day of camp activities. Although four courses (Forest Biology, Wood Utilization, Mensuration, and Multiple Use Operations) were taught, many activities were integrated such that it was difficult to distinguish the class to which a day's activities belonged.

Richard Faltonson led the Forest Biology. Rich's enthusiasm for teaching and his empathy for students enriched the details of dendrology, tree anatomy and function, microclimate, succession, soils, bogs and fens, silviculture, forest pests, wildlife, plant-soil relations, genetics, nursery management and much more.

The wisdom and knowledge of Dean Prestemon opened minds to the realization that much knowledge about wood utilization is necessary for foresters to adequately perform as either forest managers or wood scientists. Processes of converting trees to products were probed on many trips, including a logging demonstration, study mill and dry kilns, match factory, hardboard plant, preservation plant, sawmills, waferboard plant, oriented strand board plant, Blandin Paper Co. and Northwest Paper.
David Countryman enlightened students in the practical work of forest mensuration as they scaled logs, ran a traverse, cruised timber, and completed an inventory. By the end of camp, students were familiar with the tools of the trade, understood mapping procedures, knew the meaning of DBH, knew the length of their pace (roughly), and had learned of rain, mosquitoes, and field work.

In multiple use operations, the camp staff exposed students to some of the issues involved in forestry and to personnel in a variety of forestry organizations. The class toured the Cloquet Forestry Center, the Laurentian Ranger District of the Superior National Forest, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the land holdings of large and small private landowners, the Natural Resources Research Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency Environment Research Lab, the Hill Mine and Reclamation Center, and the mines and reclamation projects of the Hibbing Tachonite Company.

As Camp Director, it was again gratifying to observe people, who were strangers a few weeks earlier, making plans to continue friendships that may last a lifetime.

To close the decade of the 1980’s, let me bring the Summer Camp Record up to date. Respective Camp Directors in the following listing are indicated by an asterisk (*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>STAFF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>University of Minnesota Camp at Cloquet, Minnesota</td>
<td>Frederick Hopkins*, Richard Hall, Floyd Manwiller, Carl Mize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>U.S. Forest Service (Girl Scout Camp), Cass Lake, Minnesota</td>
<td>Floyd Manwiller*, Richard Hall, Steven Jungst, Cook: Laura Schilling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>University of Minnesota Camp at Cloquet, Minnesota</td>
<td>David Countryman*, Richard Meilan, Dean Prestemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Lubrecht Forest, Montana</td>
<td>Joe Colletti*, Mon lin Kuo, Richard Schultz, Cook: Donna Zimmerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Lubrecht Forest Montana</td>
<td>Floyd Manwiller*, Richard Hall, Carl Mize, Cook: Donna Zimmerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>University of Minnesota Camp at Cloquet, Minnesota</td>
<td>David Countryman*, Richard Faltonson, Dean Prestemon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— Dr. David Countryman
A summer in Colorado

Overall, my summer was an incredible experience. Living in a small town and working at a job that was physically demanding, I met new people and learned valuable life lessons. The highlight of my summer was participating in a local Frisbee league. It was a great way to stay active and make new friends.

Along with the Frisbee league, I had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country. Each trip was an adventure and allowed me to see new places and try new things.

I am grateful for the experiences I had during my summer in Colorado. It was a time of personal growth and development, and I am excited to see what the future holds.

— Steve DeCock