

===Rainy – Chilly – I got ready to go [back to camp]. We cooked some eggs and shared a melon. Soon we were off. Many zageme. The trip did not take too long.

To my tent to...rest and...stay here till morning. I am ready to go to sleep – and it is still early.

I was [awaken]...by a spider in my sleeping bag. I found a second one in the morning – they died.

===I spent time...reading...went for a long walk...and gathered plantain. We sat around the fire talking [after supper]. Ty passed out cigars...I had some chocolate to share. It was...windy and cool. Time for bed.

===I went to get the food drop. It was an interesting ride. I had the weight forward --- and with the wind – it made it hard to come back with any speed. So I had to go very slow.

I had a moment of ‘hard’ truth speaking with Kai. I don’t want to rehash it here in print. I hope we both gained something from the incident.

After dinner I [told] a story...it went OK. I think we should do more story telling.

===I...wrung my hide in water twice and I egged and wrung it 4 times. Then I racked it up...mid day and a few hours later I had buckskin. YEA! Then I went and took a bath.

O – I almost forgot – I used my bow drill to start a fire this AM – then I...lost the flame. I thought it was gone....I killed my fire. Travis was...ready to use a match when I found a coal – a tiny coal – I got it going – a resurrected fire. (I almost lost it – but I got it back again.)

===It was quiet...this morning. I ate watermelon for B-fast. I find myself wanting more. I never thought I would say that.

I got my second hide in the rack. I...scraped my third. It was getting near sunset as I...finished scraping.

I...joined the others at the hearth – to cook fish and veggies. Kai brought gifts...mangos, kiwis, and York patties. Wow. What a treat.

===[We] go and get birch bark today. It got near noon and we thought no one was going...then Brian showed up to get us. We...got a good bunch of bark.

On the way back we saw a road kill fawn. No one wanted to butcher it – so I did. We ate the heart and lung along with some liver for supper. We...had veggies and rice...it was a [private] feast for Travis’ 21st birthday. That is why we had the rice. Kai got out the peach and blueberry pies...Ty [gave] a can of pipe tobacco as a gift. I had...cigars and some cashews.

It was a very good day – even my emergency da’i run. I had to make a ‘stop and drop’ off the trail, then carry it on a tray of bark the rest of the way. O the joy of too many nuts in the diet. I had not gone in two days...so I was rather full. I feel good now.

===I [finished] butchering the fawn – Peter helped. We used the meat for the feast tonight. The feast was wonderful! I have never eaten anything like that fawn meat – WOW!! We had salad and dessert. We cooked...on a trench fire. [We] played a couple blindfold games. Then it was late – the energy was claming down – time to go home or stay (depending on who you were)

I got my tent aired out. I shall...dispatch the...mosquitoes in my tent and...go to bed.

===I got up...and decided I'm going for a long walk. I got my wallet and a package to mail and headed off. I could not sit in my tent... because of the rain. No mater what the weather – I was going...

I got to Billy's by lunch...burger, fries, pickle, and two beers. Next stop – DQ – [for a] large Blizzard. Cho chip, cookie dough, fudge. MMM!! My first one ever. I went to the medical clinic and got weighed. I lost over 30 pounds. Then I went to the IGA for veggies. On my way back I got cattail pollen, rose peddles, and milkweed pods.

The deer flies were relentless. They only stopped when they got what they wanted or died. I got back...ate and talked. It was good. I need to go to bed.

===I had a nice breakfast...6 eggs, fry bread and cattail pancakes.

I spent the afternoon working on a hide. Tomorrow I hope to tan a hide and hopefully get one in the rack to prep for tanning.

After supper Kai made No-bake cookies. They were very good.

It is a very dark and starry night. If it were not late I would take a ride on the lake. It is...like a mirror. I shall go out, but not tonight. I must get some rest.

===After a breakfast of 6 eggs...leftover veggies and cherry fry bread, I worked on a hide. I started soaking it...in egg solution. [In between wringing it in egg] I went swimming and had lunch. Then I started stretching it in the rack. I took it out too soon – it was still damp and getting cardboardy. Tamarack...said I could...[start] again. So, I did. It was almost dry, but the sun was going down. I...built a 'white mans fire' and I hand stretched the hide in the heat of the fire. Success!

After everyone ate, they came over and we talked around the fire.

I found a glowing stick in the wood pile. Bioluminescence. I put it aside so we can see...it...in the day light.

===I...got a hide in the rack for sanding. I got my lunch together and went over to the other side to cook and chat, because there is no one here.

[In the evening] we had a food drop. I took our extra boxes to the landing; others got the food and hides. I need to chose a hide and get scraping.

Travis got two boxes, Kai and Ty each got one. There were lots of goodies to share. It was another very fine day.

===I soaked a small piece of rawhide...in egg. I later worked it into buckskin. I scraped a hide...and sanded my other hides. I made the small buckskin into a pouch – then I smoked it. I need to make a string for it. I plan to send it to Mike W.

===It was nice today. The sky was hazy and the wind was from the south west. I went for a boat ride after I did laundry – had a bath and swim – it was very refreshing.

Zageme were out in force. Ty and I had a cigar.

===Melon for breakfast – then I finished scrapping a hide. I prepped it for racking and made some rawhide cord [from the scraps], to put on the little pouch.

Travis helped me string my hide up in the rack – he wanted the practice.

I...got two birch bark tubes to make a mail box. I keep forgetting to...get [my letters] to Chris, [so he can mail them]. Hope this works.

(P.S. – I had a strange thought – Some day – I am going to get naked – go to the other camp – tag someone and say “Naked Tag! You’re it.” And leave) ☺

===I soaked a hide – so I could sew it. I finished the pouch...,I went for a ride on the lake. The food drop never came...(we fast, sort of)

I had a real good talk with David...got to know one another better.

While...at a meeting, a storm dumped rain rather heavy. It got dark – so no supper. I grabbed some leftovers and two carrots. Zageme are out for BLOOD! Time to hide in my tent – eat my snack – go to bed.

===It was hard getting up...I feel so tired. I put my blindfold on as soon as I got out [of my tent]. I went to the hearth – then [to my] da’i spot – but only to the turn off. I did not want to go off trail blindfolded. I put it back on when I got back to the trail. Then I put my canoe in the water and attempted to go blindfold canoeing. NO GO. I went around in circles.

I...went and played Naked Tag. I went to the other camp...and tagged the first unsuspecting person. Then I took a swim.

I got a fire going...a storm came...I covered the fire and it lasted out the storm. We cooked bear meat.

I put a piece of grass between my thumbs and blew [a grass whistle] ...the other camp was wondering what kind of bird that was. I might do it again some night, just to keep them wondering.

===I cut some basswood bark into strips for a basket – By Golly, I need a basket. I went down to the swim area and saw bats feeding.

I blew on the grass whistle again, but it turns out that Travis told them what it was. A ‘Purple Waisted Grass Whistle Herron’ [He saw me in my purple underwear, and that’s where he got the name.]

===I started wringing a hide...and finished it. It is...stiff in places, but...I don’t think I want to re-do it. After I finished...my hide, I took a bath...and helped fix supper.

I made a small basswood basket.

===We got a food drop...[with] some “mystery meat” and a head.

In the afternoon I went berry picking...and I got some nettles, too.

===I started on the Log Bridges – even though it is a ‘group project’. I...started, the group can finish. I cleaned the hide area...moved my beam and brought my rack over [from the craft area].

I went for a boat ride and found a fish...which I...cooked for lunch.

I went looking for people today, but they are hard to find.

===Up and at ‘em. I went da’i for the first time in three days.

Everyone is fasting and I was feeling lonely – so I packed up my food and went to the other camp to cook supper. I had a good time talking and eating.

Travis came over [to tell us] we have a food drop. On the way back I saw the Northern Lights and pointed them out to Travis and David.

===We were going to do shelter work, but [it never happened.]

I started on a hide...by sun down I had it scraped, trimmed, and sewn. I also wrung a hide...tomorrow I shall make it into buckskin.

After supper, Kai shared some...marzipan candy. Wow. Yum.

I just pulled a bug off my neck – I hope it wasn’t a spider.

===I woke early...wrung and stretched a hide...went well...took a long time. The neck stayed stiff...I [made a big hole] where [there once was] a small hole.

I went to the other camp to socialize and pick berries. I got a pint and a half.

Supper time...Boiled lung w/ nuts and hot peppers. Cabbage and turnips as a side.

===We...collected spruce root...we got a bunch. We started taking apart the ‘Wooly Mammoth’. We need to plan on how we are going to fix it. I think we will re-build it.

It was still light – so I (and Travis) went out on the lake...to get water. The bats were about – some came very near me.

===It was a good day to da’i. (humor) I got my fifth hide prepped and in the rack.

I did laundry and had a nice swim. [Then] we carted off the deer hair to the dump site (finally). Then...another swim.

We discussed walking in, on our monthly visit, to the Center. I need to face a fear and walk in alone, in the dark. [I wasn’t afraid of the dark. I was afraid of BEARS in the dark.] It should be an interesting walk. I just hope the weather cooperates with me.

===I cleaned the fire pit...I was going to make a fire at lunch time. It took a while. [I had to make] 4 notched in [my fire board] – I did get a fire going.

I worked on hide #6. It turned out to be a very nice hide. I worked on [it] a good bit – then needed to go for a walk. It was a nice walk.

The other campmates got back and the ‘candy fairy’ visited my tent. Time to turn in – and brush my teeth – after eating the candy.

===Much went on today...I scraped my hide (two times)...I gathered fire wood... then [helped] cut fire wood for the sweat lodge. I cut half a tree it seemed. The

last part (which was 10 feet long)...I took to the wood [pile] as one piece instead of several little pieces. Then we went swimming.

We had a late lunch. I cooked up 18 eggs, some for now, the rest for later. I was hungry. (p.s. The eggs were not all for me.)

I...got things ready to take with me when I walk in. I will be walking in alone in the dark – to town and the Center. I will be coming back...the day after tomorrow. (We never hardly ever know what day it is out here.)

==I went to bed...I thought I slept – but not long enough. The moon was...up and full. It was strange – I was concerned – but off I went. It was very quiet... [but] I heard something on Woodbury Lk Rd. About a ½ mile from IGA, I took a nap in the woods. Then went into town – it was 3:30am – I was early. I wandered here and there. I sat in the woods and spooked a deer, she snorted at me. I sat in the park. Finally, at 6:00am, Cindy's opened. I had steak and eggs. Then...to...the IGA [for] stuff and donuts. Yumm. I headed back to the Center...went da'i...took a nap. I woke refreshed...felt better, too. I did some research...read...phone calls...supper...bath...and went to bed.

==I finished my business at the Center...and headed...for lunch at the closest restaurant. On my way back I met up with Kai. We walked the rest of the way back together. I got back...went for a boat ride... meeting...then supper. Then to bed – we sweat tomorrow.

==The morning was quiet. We are all fasting before the sweat. About noon people started showing up. Some of us went to the boat landing to get stuff. It was windy and I had a hard time going.

Soon it was time...for the...sweat. We got in [and got seated]. The Grandfathers seemed to have more fire than last time. All went well...then something fell on me. I think it was a spider.

After the second 'door' my heart rate was up...I had to leave [early] as did Ty, John, and Travis. The rest stayed till the end. I don't think I had enough water in me.

It was strange – we came out of the lodge – red and sweaty – and just plopped on the ground and lay there naked – without a care.

[Then] down to the water we went. There were fisherman near by – I wonder what they thought?

Soon it was feast time...stew and apple pie! ☺ After we ate...we talked...it got dark...the stars were bright. Ty and I had a cigar (or 2)

==I made a 'sun fire'. I used a lens to focus sun light on tinder. I cooked a banana omelet. It was my first. I shall have more.

After lunch we sorted...[birch bark] panels and worked on spruce root. Then we will be ready to re-do the 'Woolly Mammoth'

===I ate fruit for breakfast...worked on a hide. I cooked fish for lunch. I took all the bones out...then fried it...it was good.

I took deer hair out to dump – and took the wrong trail back – and came across the bog. It was like walking through snow – but not cold.

I sent an order to REI for freeze dried ice cream.

===This has been an interesting day. Ty and I were supposed to go to town and do stuff,...but there was a meeting. Things came up, fear was a main subject. –we fear – because we don't like what we have. So – we look for a familiar thing. None of this was sinking in – I didn't get it. People spoke of their cravings – I don't have any. I like chocolate, burgers, Blizzards and such but not cravings. But what was my deal? I don't know.

As I said, Ty and I were going to go to in – I needed to make a phone call at 2:00pm – it was late – I figured we were not going to go. I needed a ride to the Center. I didn't even think of speaking to Ty. Turns out he changed his mind about going. But I didn't know that. I guess...I totally blew him off (I ended up apologizing). I messed up good. [I made the phone calls – got through to the ones I needed to call] Then I walked back by way of Billy's. Burger...beer...candy...

On the road back – I thought about, 'am I selfish?' – How does my ego fit into all this? – Do I need to be an example...to the others – because I am the oldest? Can I help others before I help myself? – Or is it me first then others? If I don't take care of myself, how can I help others?

After supper we talked – and I realized...my fear. I am not in control of my life like I was. It is not what I get in town – it is the actual going. Before I went where I wanted, when I wanted. Here someone else is in the driver seat – like those two dreams...someone was driving...with me in the back seat.

Now – what do I do with this information? As for tonight – I shall sleep on it – and take tomorrow as it comes.

===It rained this AM. We were going to work on the 'Wooly' but the wet changed that. I...got...raspberries.

We had a Talking Circle, (it was good). I...had a good talk with Franz. He...sees changes in me; there is a pain in me from many years of loneliness and rejection. I want to be accepted. Let it come out. Let it come out. That feeling.

Ty and I had a good talk (and a cigar). One week [my visiting week] has changed me. What has 3 months done? What will a year do? We get to know each other very well – better than people [we saw every day, before we came here]. We never...[saw] those people naked. Here we see everyone naked – not just the body – but the heart and soul – The real person – wow – that makes this place special.

"I want to see everyone naked" Travis 'Ty' Young

===Chris came out to see if we were going to start on shelter tear down. We got together and took down the 'Wooly' – and sorted the [good parts from the damaged parts]. I burned the floor debris...it was smelly.

I don't feel much like doing supper – nor did Ty. I want to retire early – too many late nights.

===I slept in...it was cool and rainy. What else could I do? (humm?)
I went for a canoe ride...to the boat landing. The guy there offered me a beer – I took it. Then I...went and got berries.

We had a good meeting. One thing that came up – was me ‘not driving’...of being a passenger. I was saying – it is not town that gets me – but the going. Later Tamarack said (maybe) I should go – get there – not buy anything and come back. (I must think on that one.)

===I stayed in bed...I just lay there thinking – I didn’t really want to get up. In mid afternoon I got up.

Someone...said they had a deer. Ty and I went and got it. It was a fawn. Ty didn’t want to deal with it – I did! I skinned and cut, Kai wrapped. We saved the heart and one back strap for supper. We ate in the dark.

Tent time – I used 18 matches to light my candle. The silly things wouldn’t work.

===I stretched my raccoon hide. I think it will make a nice pouch.
I started wringing my 5th hide...I have 9 total. I hope to do this fawn [hide] with the hair on.

Fish for supper. I showed them how I de-boned the fish for pan frying. [The fish we got were sucker fish – very bony] They liked the idea. It was clear and calm...we went out on the lake to look at stars.

===I worked on my big hide today. I successfully scraped my fawn skin with hair on. [It didn’t slip and I was so glad. I didn’t want o mess up and ruin it.]

The guys [camping] at the boat landing gave us their left over food stuff. Chips, wieners, kraut, spinach, sausage, butter, bread, beans. Wow. I had some of it for supper. Yummm!

Kai was gone all day – she surprised us with smores at supper time. We feasted. I also found two Dove Bars near my tent this evening – from the Candy Fairy.

===I learned something about hides today. I forgot or did not know about scraping the ‘glaze’ from a hide [while one is stretching it dry. I was doing my 5th hide and did not scrape the glaze and] it did not dry very fast – and then it got stiff.

Yesterday, the campers gave us...their left over food. It caused a variety of reactions. It affected...out group. I ended up thinking, ‘Let’s just get rid of that food – eat it – throw it away – just let it be gone.’

Let people be who and what they are – love them anyway. Franz packed up and left...he is struggling with himself. He is searching. I hope he finds what he is looking for. I went to see him – I told him I felt hurt – and wished him peace. He hugged me. Then he gave me two blankets. I helped him carry his stuff to the boat landing.

I then took a bath – did laundry – ate supper – talked by the fire – and went to bed. The coyotes are making a lot of noise right now.

