



Cree Culture, Natural Resources, and Sustainability –2013

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Department of Environmental Conservation

Chaukumikw, log lodge or moss house, the warmest winter shelter of the Cree people, Cultural Village, Ouje Bougoumou, Quebec

Click here ...watch this!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-wJ5CzpVa8>

— Participants —

Hans Carlson (Trip Leader)
Brandon, Vermont

Hans Carlson is a writer and academic living in Vermont; he also makes his living as a boat-builder and woodworker. He grew up and has lived most of his life in rural New England, where he is engaged with issues of land use and stewardship. These have been lifelong concerns, but have been brought into sharper focus by his decades of friendship with James Bay Cree people, in northern Quebec, and other Indigenous people in North America. Trying to integrate Indigenous ideas of land use into modern practice is the central feature of his writing and activism.

He is the author of *Home Is The Hunter: The James Bay Cree and Their Land*, as well as other articles about the Cree, and he has traveled extensively in northern Quebec and Labrador, since the early 1980s. In addition to carrying out research on the north, he has lead wilderness canoe trips, and has been leading Cree experiential-learning trips for Hulbert Outdoor Center since 2008. He has taught in the American Indian Studies Department, at the University of Minnesota, as well as at the University of Maine where he completed his PhD in 2005.

Naomi Heindel (Trip Leader)
New Haven, Connecticut (originally from northern Vermont)

Naomi Heindel is a masters of environmental science candidate at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Her research focuses on the impacts of logging on the lives and lands of the James Bay Cree of northern Quebec. She has traveled in James Bay several times as a researcher, both for this project, and for her earth science undergraduate thesis from Dartmouth College. Her original interest in James Bay began on extended wilderness canoe trips in the region as a teenager, and she has continued to be an active outdoorswoman, leading wilderness trips for Darrow Camp and Hulbert Outdoor Center, among other organizations. Prior to returning to school, she worked as a field educator for Yosemite Institute for three years, teaching environmental science and outdoor skills throughout Yosemite National Park. She hopes to continue in science education when she graduates in May, after another summer of canoeing, this time as the assistant director for Chewonki's girls' camp in Maine. She has published in *Orion*, *Northern Woodlands*, and *Sage* magazines and presented her research at schools, public forums, and academic conferences.

Paul Barten (Teaching Assistant)

West Suffield, Connecticut

Professor of Forest Resources, University of Massachusetts Amherst

This will be my fifth trip to Ouje Bougoumou and David and Anna Bosum's winter camp on David Mianscum's hunting territory. As always, I am looking forward to renewing friendships, continuing to learn about Cree culture and the northern forest, and (echoing Hans) trying to adapt these principles and practices to my life, professional work, and teaching.

Margaret Mead once said: "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*" So, here are eight young people who we think can change the world. The changes they make or inspire through their professional work and personal example may be modest and incremental but with patience and determination most are possible. As soon we return to U.S. we will start changing the world with renewed focus, energy, inspiration, and knowledge gained by what we learn and experience in *Eeyou Istchee* with David and Anna Bosum.

Nicolas Chmura

Belchertown, Massachusetts

I am a Natural Resources Conservation major with a focus is sustainability. I'm a senior and will complete my degree in December 2013. I'm interested in the trip because I find the ability of the Cree people to live off the land amazing and want to see if I can do it myself. We think that we are sustainable if we recycle our trash and use less fossil fuel, but this falls far short of living in the bush and sustaining yourself by hunting, fishing, and trapping. I think this course and trip will have a major influence on how I view and understand sustainability. My hobbies include longboarding, snowboarding, hiking, plants and art.

Adam Finkle

Syracuse, New York

I am a graduate student pursuing my master's degree in sustainability science. I have a deep appreciation and respect for the natural world and I look forward to learning alongside Anna and David this March. The roots of sustainability embraced by the Cree—the connections formed between humans, animals, energy, and the land—is what I look forward to feeling and experiencing most during our time in the north. I spent several years as a science teacher and fishing guide on the Cape Cod National Seashore before returning to university. I enjoy hiking in the Adirondack Mountains, skiing, fishing, biking, and cooking in my free time. Thank you so much to Anna and David for hosting. I look forward to meeting you both in the coming weeks.

Georges Fischer

Stow, Massachusetts

I grew up in Georgia and have spent a fair amount of time in France as well. This year I am twenty-one years old, and a senior at UMass Amherst (majoring in political science and minoring in natural resources conservation).

I look forward to meeting you, as I look forward to making this trip. I think this is partially because I have always been attracted by the North (it makes for a physically beautiful landscape). Outside of the beautiful context, I am also interested in the battle between land and resource

preservation and the people that seek to utilize it. I think there is a line to tread between these two interests. Although it's a little bit outside of the scope of my studies, I find myself thinking a lot about how those kinds of conflicts get resolved and what gets put aside in the name of compromise. A bit about my other interests and passions: I'm a terribly un-rhythmic person, but I like to play music. On some days I find myself painting with watercolors. Subjects include my favorite animals (owls, sea urchins, bears, and squid), or more abstract landscapes (I like to draw/paint circles, so my landscapes tend to incorporate a lot of them in trees, celestial bodies, etc.) In general though, I have too much energy for that kind of pursuit, so on those days I also go for long runs through the local farmlands and forests.

Lena Fletcher

Shutesbury, Massachusetts

I'm a doctoral student studying forest and watershed ecology at UMass. I am 35 years old and live in Massachusetts. I have worked with Paul Barten and heard about this trip for several years now. I have always been interested in participating. I am fascinated by and want to learn more deeply about life in the bush and the intersection of Cree culture and rights, environmental issues, true sustainable living, and the threats and realities of resource extraction and hydroelectricity. I am interested as a student as I search for meaning and direction in my career path, but also as a divorced mom of four boys whom I hope to raise to be more deeply aware and conscientious. My children (ages 3,6, and twin 10-year-olds) have much of my time and attention when I am not working, but I also love to do many outdoor activities, such as hiking, canoeing, and rock climbing. I am very excited about the trip, the people we will meet, and the experiences we will share. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Drew Gath

Andover, Massachusetts

I am currently a second year student at the University of Massachusetts, pursuing a dual degree in Cultural Anthropology and Natural Resources Conservation, along with a certificate in Native American Studies. I was drawn to this trip because I believe it will be a great opportunity to combine my outdoor recreational hobbies with my academic interests. I am particularly interested in gaining some winter subsistence strategies along with learning as much as I can about the Cree culture. Looking forward to heading north!!

Tristan O'Donnell

Worcester, Massachusetts

I am a third-year student in Anthropology with a minor in Natural Resources Conservation. I am also enrolled in the certificate program in Native American Indian Studies. I'm interested in this trip because I love being in nature and I felt that this would let me not only experience a part of the world few have the opportunity to see. It will also help me to better understand the roles of humans in the natural and spiritual world. I am really interested in learning about Cree culture and traditions first hand. I love doing crafts and making things with my hands and I play multiple instruments and love all kinds of musical expression.

Cassidy Plaud

Manchaug, Massachusetts

(Editor's note: Manchaug is derived from the "Monuhchogogoks", a group of Nipmuc people)

I am a second-year student studying Natural Resources Conservation. I also hope to minor in anthropology or earn a certificate in Native American studies. I am excited to learn first-hand about the Cree culture and the about land. My hobbies include crocheting, hiking and reading. I am looking forward to meeting you.

Katherine Usik

I was born in southern California in 1990. Though I was born close to the ocean, and even though my parents grew up there, my family moved to a quiet small town in the inland parts of southern California shortly after my birth, where I grew up surrounded by orange groves and the San Bernardino Mountains. I went to the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned a B.A. in Religious Studies in 2008, with an emphasis in Native American religious traditions. It was a switch going to Santa Barbara, because I had never lived next to the ocean! Now, I'm a first year graduate student at the University of Iowa, majoring in Religious Studies with the same emphasis in Native American religious traditions. I'm interested in the relations First Nations peoples have with their environments and the beings that inhabit their land in a religious context, but I am also interested in other Indigenous traditions such as those in Australia and Europe. A strange fact about me: my last name means "little mustache" in Russian. I have no idea how my ancestors got that name—but it's a good conversation starter at parties.



“Let’s Go!”

L-R: Hans, Nick, Adam, Lena, Tristan, Georges, Drew, Cassidy