



Cree Culture, Natural Resources, and Sustainability – 2014

University of Massachusetts Amherst
and the Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont

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 led 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. He is a Senior Research Associate at the Great Mountain Forest in northwestern Connecticut.

Katie Seivwright (Trip Leader)
Fairlee, Vermont

Katie Seivwright works at Hulbert Outdoor Center as a program coordinator. She organizes educational programming at HOC and is a trip leader for many of their expeditions. She earned her BS in Education and General Science and is a graduate of a NOLS Outdoor Educator Course. She has been involved in outdoor education for seven years with Hulbert Outdoor Center, Keewaydin Environmental Education Center, and Adventure Treks. This is her first trip to Ouje Bougoumou and hopes to return year after year. She admires the Cree peoples' use of their land, strong community bonds, and commitment to their traditions. She hopes to learn more about the effects of outside interests on their land. Katie enjoys downhill skiing, running, canoeing, and crafting. Katie is a Wilderness First Responder and Leave-no-Trace Trainer.

Paul Barten

West Suffield, Connecticut (born and raised in Kingston, New York)
Professor of Forestry and Hydrology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

This will be my sixth 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 and professional work, especially my teaching and writing.

Deb Williams sent me some of her books a few months ago, including Roy MacGregor's 1989 biography, entitled, "*Chief: The Fearless Vision of Billy Diamond.*" I read it and several others over the holidays and Winter Recess and, once again, discovered how much more I need to learn, consider, internalize, and try to communicate to others. This is very valuable and humbling to me as a teacher. It also makes me even more determined to bring our best students to *Eyou Istchee*. I look forward to leading this class and making this trip more every year.

I enjoy reading, travelling, woodworking, leatherworking, working in my garden, orchard, and woodlot, hiking, canoeing, and spending time with my family and friends.

Will Cooney

La Plata, Maryland

I grew up in Maryland and traveled very little during the winter months north of the Mason Dixon line. I worked formerly for a printing company as a digital print operator and truck driver. My interest in the trip was initially for the winter experience in Quebec, to see a landscape that I've been captivated by for many years now. This northern land for me was primarily a land of boundless trees, the Canadian shield, caribou, and admittedly, didn't include indigenous people. As time went on and I became more acquainted with the trip details, I've become much more interested in the people I will meet and learning about their experience in this winter environment. I hope to come away with a better understanding of this part of Canada and the Cree people. My interests include photography, hiking, and being outdoors.

Bryttany Cunningham

Milford, Connecticut

I am a 22 year old senior at UMass double majoring in Psychology and Natural Resources conservation with a concentration in environmental conservation. I started college as a psychology major, but upon arriving at UMass, I found my second major and have loved every second of it.

Originally, I am from South Carolina and have spent my entire life living on the beach between there and my current home in Milford, where the beach is just a five minute walk down the road. I love the water. I used to dream of becoming a marine biologist and I wanted to research whales and dolphins.

Music is a huge part of my life – I am a singer/songwriter and I play guitar. I have been playing since I was little and I absolutely love playing and sharing music with people. There just isn't anything like it in the world and I love that.

This trip really appealed to me because it's so different. We get to spend a week in the Canadian north... there just aren't any classes like it. And I absolutely love the way the Cree look at life and how connected everything is to them. Their passion and love for the land is admirable and their general way of life and how they have existed simply and happily for so long is so interesting. I want to learn everything I can. I also love being outside and I have never been to Canada. I can't wait to get up there and meet everyone!

Carolyn Gorss

Southborough, Massachusetts

I am studying environmental science with a focus in wetlands and fresh water, as a 3rd-year student at UMass. I am 21 years old and absolutely love to learn. Nature has always filled me with fascination, and I am eager to learn and teach as much as I can about the environment. I also dearly love to make art and music, and to be outdoors as much as possible. I live in Massachusetts next to a small patch of conservation land that has forests, fields, and apple orchards that I like to explore in during all times of the year. Every summer since I was born, my family and I have traveled to the Algonquin Park area in southern Ontario, and because of that I am very interested in Canada. I am especially curious about Cree culture as well as the natural landscape in northern Quebec! I hope to experience as much as I possibly can on this trip, and am looking forward to it greatly!

Jonathan Hardy-McCauliff

Fitchburg, Massachusetts and Rindge, New Hampshire

I am a third year student in forest ecology and conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I spend as much time in the outdoors as possible, hiking, camping, fishing and skateboarding whenever I have free time. I am most looking forward to meeting Anna and David Bosum and other members of the community and to living and learning in their winter camp. I am also looking forward to trying some traditional Cree foods! I can't wait to head North!

Mae Knowles

Boylston, Massachusetts

I am in my third year at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and I am earning a degree in Natural Resources Conservation and a certificate in Native American and Indigenous Studies. I am an outdoor enthusiast who loves rock climbing, kayaking, backpacking, and learning about the organisms around me (especially trees). I am also very interested in the arts. I come from a very musical family and I am a visual artist with painting as my primary medium. I want to spend as much of my life in nature as possible exploring new landscapes. I have never been farther north than Montreal and I am excited to experience this beautiful place that I have only read about. I found out about this class and trip as a freshman and have wanted to be a part of it ever since. I am especially excited for this trip because I have studied and taken interest in the Native peoples of North America and admire and respect their connection with the Earth but I have not yet been able to experience this first hand. I believe the world has much to learn from the Cree people and I cannot wait to be a part of the learning.

Jacqueline Kulig

Pomfret, Connecticut

This is my last semester at UMass. I look forward to our visit with David and Anna Bosum as a way to push my limits and prepare myself for whatever comes next. As a forest ecology and conservation major, I was immediately drawn to the course as a way to understand natural resource use in a different context than our own, but as the weeks grow closer, I find myself with more and more to look forward to. Needless to say, spending Winter Recess outdoors, working with my hands, is significant reason why I am excited to travel to northern Quebec. I am also especially excited to build upon my previous experience with sewing and leatherworking. I imagine that this

trip will give me the opportunity to try things that I might not otherwise experience, and I see this as the biggest draw. Thank you to everyone who has made this trip possible!

Tracey McFadden

Strafford, Vermont

I am the director of Camp Horizons, one of the camps of the Aloha Foundation which includes Hulbert Outdoor Center. As a friend and colleague of Deb Williams for many years, I have heard much about her incredible trips to Ouje Bougoumou to learn about Cree culture and experience life in the bush with David and Anna Bosum.

I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. When I came to Vermont for college I fell in love with the state, especially its winters. I graduated with a joint major in Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology and a minor in Elementary Education. After 25 years of teaching in Vermont public schools (and raising two daughters) I am now committed full-time to camping and getting children outdoors experiencing nature in new and challenging ways.

In my free time I enjoy hiking, skiing, biking, snowshoeing, canoeing, or anything else that gets me outside. I also seek out any opportunities for travel and cross-cultural experiences. I'm excited to head north to see a new part of the world, make new friends, and learn about the Cree way of life. I hope to be able to use what I learn in my personal life and to share it with my camp community.

Jessie Prucnal

Ware, Massachusetts

I'm a senior in Forest Ecology and Conservation at UMass. My mother always felt connected to her Blackfoot heritage; this sparked my interest in Native American culture at a young age. I found out about the Cree Culture course when I took Prof. Barten's Forests & People class during my freshman year. Since then, I have had the class in mind as an opportunity to immerse myself in a native culture. In my last semester I have the opportunity to do just that. I am incredibly interested in coexisting with the land and nature in a harmonious light. I'm also looking forward to gaining new skills and to broadening my outlook.

Colleen Puzas

Norfolk, Massachusetts

I am an Environmental Science senior with a dual minor in Natural Resource Conservation and Plant, Soil, and Insect Science. When I heard about this trip two years ago, my heart was already set on going—I knew my love of nature, canoeing, sustainable living, water conservation, and Native American culture would guide me there. I am intrigued by how the Cree live off the land and I wish to learn more about how to efficiently use natural resources in creative and idealistic ways. Even though there is a great push towards “renewable” energy in the U.S., I believe simple living is far more satisfying than meeting the endless demands of a consumerist life. I am enthusiastically excited about immersing myself in a lifestyle different from my own, meeting our hosts Anna and David Bosum, getting some tips on how to build my own canoe, and this trip in general, as it will be my first out-of-country adventure.



Magi dow! [Let's go!]

Left to right: Jackie Kulig, Hans Carlson, Jessie Prucnal, Jonathan Hardy-McCauliff, Mae Knowles, Bryttany Cunningham, Colleen Puzas, Carolyn Gorss

Some web sites of interest in relation to our trip...

“The Cree Course”

http://eco.umass.edu/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/UMass_NRC579_Cree_Culture_Natural_Resources_Sustainability_Spring_2014.pdf

Hulbert Outdoor Center

<http://www.alohafoundation.org/hulbert-outdoor-center/>

Annischaankamikw ...Cree Cultural Institute, Ouje Bougoumou

<http://www.creeculturalinstitute.ca/en>

Barrette Chapais Ltd.

<http://www.barrette-chapais.qc.ca/index.php/english/>

Grand Council of the Crees

<http://www.gcc.ca/>

Ouje Bougoumou weather (Note to parents: “Don’t worry, we are ready for anything!” PB, HC, KS)

<http://www.theweathernetwork.com/weather/canada/quebec/ouje-bougoumou>

...just wait until you hear the stories when we return!