

The Boynton Society

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2015

Language Immersion Weekend

By Eilene Hoft-March, Milwaukee-Downer College and College Endowment Association Professor of Liberal Studies and professor of French

Ever since 1995, the Björklunden lodge has had short bursts when its halls echo with foreign languages without a syllable of English to be heard. One might think this the case in certain corridors of Main Hall on the southern campus, but the fact is that Lawrence needs Björklunden in order to give language and culture students a genuine immersion experience. The facility's splendid isolation and its large meeting spaces provide ideal conditions for anything from casual conversation to intense discussion. Language lessons are spontaneous (you might learn how to say "Pass the salt, please" or "I've locked myself out of my room" or "What do think of Europe's response to the recent terrorist attacks?").

This January, four language departments (French, German, Japanese and Russian) took students to the lodge with nary a bed to spare. How do we all cohabit this weekend Tower of Babel? First, we all wear tags identifying our language. Our Friday night protocol is to have everyone take a pledge to speak their target language exclusively



(except in the kitchen!). Language groups repair to various rooms to pursue a range of activities. In recent past, we've participated in scavenger hunts, speed-dating, improvisations, film discussion and musical and dance performances. This year, Russian students did calisthenics (body and movement vocabulary!), Japanese

students built Manga snow creatures, German students performed fairy tales and French students had a wild game of Pictionary. Saturday night, our custom is to come together for performances rooted in our respective languages and cultures. Gestures and language can be extravagant—especially for comic effect—but the lessons of putting yourself out there and learning to be on the other side of your own identity are absolutely invaluable. They are the first brave steps to engaging in other cultures and becoming a global citizen. 🐾



Above and left: French students practice vocabulary while playing Pictionary during the language immersion weekend.



The Björklunden boat and canoe have returned home! After over 20 years in exile, they are back safely stored at Björklunden. In their prime they were lovely watercraft—cedar lapstrake interior, sided in durable canvas. When I was working summers at Björklunden in the mid-70s, I spent many hours in the canoe paddling the shoreline. I discovered Björklunden from a whole new angle. There were a couple of incidents involving that canoe that still stick out clearly in my mind. During one of my early solo summer shoreline excursions, I was kneeling in the middle of the canoe enjoying a leisurely paddle on the calm Lake Michigan waters. It was warm enough I was able to wear shorts which soon provided an interesting experience. As I was paddling along, I felt something smooth and cool slither across my calves. Startled, I quickly turned to see a two-foot garter snake looking for a place to hide. The snake apparently felt the overturned canoe was a fine place to rest when it was on shore but was less sure as we were out and about on the water. No harm was done, however, as I quickly paddled back to shore, released the snake and watched it slither off into the beach grass.

The next little event occurred a few years later in the late spring, not too long after the ice left the shoreline. Accompanied by a couple of friends, we ill-advisedly took the canoe out on a rather wavy, chilly day. We were over 100 yards from shore when the waves over took us and swamped the canoe. My two friends were a bit panicked at first and began frantically swimming toward shore. I quickly reassured them that we were in no danger and could simply stand up. Even though we were quite a ways from shore, the water in front of Björklunden is so shallow the water was only up to our waists. I must say, however, we did have quite a cold wade back to shore. Luckily, there was a warm fire roaring in the massive fireplace in the great room at the main house.

I'm sure this latter event, coupled with a necessary Coast Guard intervention and rescue of some summer staff out too far in Lake Michigan in the late-80s, led to Joe Hopfensperger's decision to get rid of the Björklunden watercraft. It was at this point that Dick and Dianne Sharratt stepped forward and volunteered to store the boat and the canoe on their property for the foreseeable future. There the boats safely resided for more than two decades. Fast forward to present-day when a phone call from Dick mentioned they had sold their house and no longer could store the boat and canoe. After much discussion about the best way to get them back to Björklunden, we decided Mark Franke would take the Björklunden truck to pick them up and bring them home.

The boats are back safely stored, but in great need of restoration before they can ever see the water again. Perhaps someday we will have them restored and they will be able to be paddled about on CALM days. We want no more Coast Guard interventions! Even though the boats will not be on display this summer, I hope you still find a reason to visit Björklunden. There are plenty of seminars with room for more guests. Check out the list on pages 6 and 7. See you by the lake!

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It's easy to support Björklunden
Visit: [Bit.ly/give2bjork](https://bit.ly/give2bjork) or
call 1-800-283-8320 x6548



Follow us on Facebook for
up-to-the-minute happenings
at the lodge!

Introducing New Boynton Society Chairs

We are excited to introduce our new co-chairs of the Boynton Society, Jeff and Jone Riester.

Jeff and Jone's love for Björklunden dates back to the 1960s. Jeff's first experience there was as a summer guide giving tours to busloads of visitors. The Riesters are Lawrence graduates from the early 1970s and have since stayed very connected to Lawrence and Björklunden. Their residences in both Appleton and Baileys Harbor are within biking distance of the two campuses, which symbolizes how physically connected they feel to both places.

The abundance of events and performances held at Björklunden have provided the Riesters with a wide array of opportunities to hear top-notch performances, participate in lectures and discussions, and to continue learning in the spirit of the liberal arts. Jone is especially grateful for the recitals of Cynthia Stiehl, Dale Duesing and jazz musicians, while Jeff shared that he greatly enjoyed last year's summer seminar *Take me Out to the Ball Game* with Steve Landfried '66. "It was a wonderful week ... and one of the best things about it was connecting with a member of the Björklunden kitchen staff, whom we taught to throw and catch a baseball for the first time in his life."

Jeff and Jone share countless memories of experiences at Björklunden. They especially cherish the joyful occasion of their daughter's late-summer wedding in the Boynton Chapel, and of Jeff walking her down the "aisle" across the lawn from the studio to the ceremony. But their time

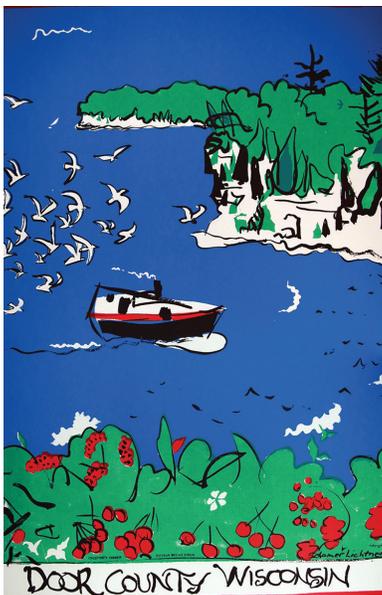
spent at Björklunden is often as simple as sitting on a shoreline bench with a book in hand, while waves lap against the rocks.

"The tranquility of the water, wind in the trees, and freshness in the air invigorate the soul and mind," said Jone.

There are many things that make Björklunden important in their lives, but the relationships forged there are high on the Riester's list. Jeff says, "This place is special for me because of the memories of the people with whom I have connected there, whether they have been leaders like Rik Warch, folks at Boynton Society gatherings, seminar attendees, or colleagues at Trustee retreats." Jone and Jeff both feel a strong and enduring bond with many fellow Björklunden guests and supporters.

The Riesters believe that it is important to support Björklunden with annual and legacy gifts to the Boynton Society. In Jone's words, "We want to be a part of ensuring that this unique and entrancing place lives on now and for those who follow us." Jeff adds, "As we transition into retirement, our closeness to Björklunden will become even more important in our lives. We look forward to sharing our commitment to Lawrence's mission at the northern campus by being present often at the lodge and on the grounds."

We are pleased to have Jone and Jeff on board, and look forward to how they will help us preserve and enhance Björklunden. Hopefully you will have a chance to see them at the lodge soon! 🍷



Björklunden is a special part of Door County and you are a special part of Björklunden

Help sustain the Björklunden experience for generations by remembering us through a gift in your will or trust, and join the Lawrence-Downer Legacy Circle, our recognition society for those who leave a legacy to Björklunden or Lawrence through a planned gift.

For more information, please visit us at legacygiving.lawrence.edu

Or contact Kristen Mekemson
920-832-7449

kristen.mekemson@lawrence.edu

What is your Björklunden Legacy?

Door County Lithograph
A Gift to the Wriston Collection from The Kohler Foundation, Inc., Schomer Lichtner Trust

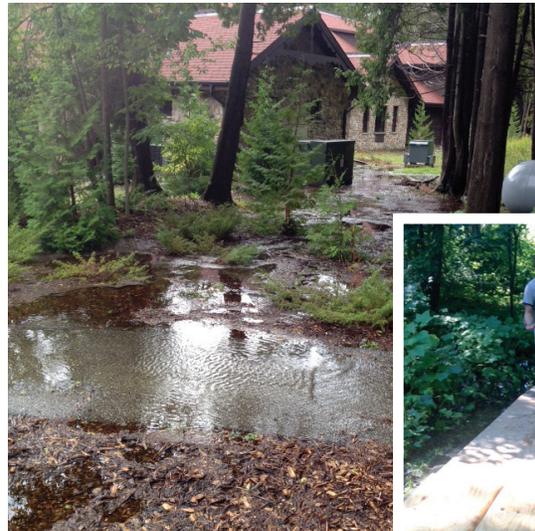


Mark the Magnificent

It is safe to say that Mark Franke, who has now been part of the Björklunden staff for one year, is a fantastic addition to the team! Generous donors who supported the Preserving Björklunden endowment at Lawrence University made the addition of Mark's position possible, and he had a very busy year making Björklunden an even better place.

Mark has been saving Björklunden from situations that could have quickly escalated into disasters since his first week on the job! Mark discovered the septic was frozen and facilitated a fix which involved a large jetting machine and a lot of stress. Obviously, this was the first of many reasons we have been thankful to have Mark on board!

Then there was the big flood ... As some of you may remember, Baileys Harbor received 8–10 inches of rain in a few days. Mark was an integral part of resolving issues that arose from the enormous amount of water that the grounds and lodge took on. There was a lot of maintenance to be done but Mark took time to build a nice "bridge" for folks on the chapel bus tour so they could enjoy their walk. He worked for weeks to ensure everything was back to normal.



The flood waters (left), and Mark's bridge to the chapel (right).



A look at the new concrete patio in front of the studio.

One of the challenges we face at Björklunden is we live in a small forest that contains all kinds of wonderful wildlife. If it's out there, Mark has had issues with it. Thank you, Mark, for keeping the pine snakes and porcupines from sneaking into our bunks! Mark worked with some of the student staff to clear truckloads of brush from the roadsides. Afterwards, Mark commented, "I enjoyed working with the students when I could. The day we cleared brush, three of them got to drive a vehicle for the first time... I enjoyed that."

Mark took on the task of removing and replacing the studio patio, where the flagstone was becoming dangerously uneven. He replaced it with colored concrete, which looks beautiful, and is safe! Mark explained, "It was a neat project for me personally, because I had worked on the studio as a mason 30 years prior."



Before (left) and after (right) power washing the chapel's roof.

Most people who have visited the Boynton Chapel have a deep appreciation for its beauty. We also understand the labor and devotion that Winifred and Donald Boynton poured into it. Mark was able to power wash the chapel's roof to remove most of the fungus and moss that could eventually eat away and damage the roof. He has ongoing projects planned involving the foundation and safely removing more moss this summer as well. "I am very focused on preserving the chapel and its unique character. It can never be replaced. That's why it is so important to maintain it," said Mark.

Some of you may be interested to know about Mark's creative and artistic side. As you are driving along Boynton Lane, after the last curve atop the hill, on the right there is a new carving. Mark tried out his skills for the first time in wood carving, using a tree that had to be cut down. His efforts resulted in a beautiful little carving of the Boynton Chapel. The carving symbolizes how resourceful and clever Mark is, as well as his dedication to Björklunden. He said, "I am so proud to say I work at Björklunden. It is so peaceful and nice. There's still so much I want



to do, but of course, having time and budget presents the biggest challenge. I'm thankful to everyone who has helped me be here." 🌲

Mark's first attempt at wood carving resulted in a miniature chapel sculpture.

Bridging Nature and Technology

Let's face it—technology has begun to change our long-standing experiences with nature. When it comes to the iPad application introduced by Lawrence students, Will Gislason '15 and Celeste Silling '16, technology does not stand in the way of nature but enhances one's relationship with it.

This student-led project we announced last fall would not have been possible without the generous support of Lawrence University's donor community. The Richard W. Bjornson Memorial Fund enabled the implementation of this amazing virtual guide for the trails throughout the Björklunden property. Richard W. Bjornson (1938–1992), from the Lawrence University Class of 1959, was a distinguished professor at The Ohio State University, and focused on comparative studies and Francophone African literature. He is survived by his wife Aija Bjornson and his son Andris Bjornson. After his passing, a memorial fund was created by his Lawrence classmates. Special thanks go to his brother, Allen Bjornson '63, for assisting with this successful project. The Richard Bjornson Fund not only enriched the learning experience of the students who helped create this app, but it will enhance the experience of the Björklunden visitors who will use it, too!

The Richard Bjornson Fund will help equip Björklunden to further educate its guests in a new and exciting way. It is an interesting world we live in as technology and nature can complement each other so well. Some of you have been able to utilize the iPad application while walking a trail on the grounds and have perhaps gained a new layer of appreciation that has come from a deeper understanding of the beautiful property and its history because of it. The app is only available at the lodge, so we hope that those of you who have not had a chance to use it take the opportunity to do so soon! 🌲

2015 BJÖRKLUNDEN SEMINARS

There is still plenty of space available for the majority of the 2015 summer and fall seminars, so be sure to register soon! Refer a friend and get a discount! Please contact Sam Szynskie '09 for any questions or to sign up today!

To register, call 920-839-2216 or email samantha.a.szynskie@lawrence.edu
For seminar details visit: www.lawrence.edu/dept/bjork/bjorkseminars

JUNE 14-19

Class, Caste, and Calidad: Race and Ethnicity in Latin America

Jake Frederick

Listen to the Birds

Don Quintenz

JUNE 21-26

Learning the Language of the Earth: Recognizing Rocks and Minerals

Marcia Bjørnerud

JULY 5-11

Tritone Jazz Fantasy Camp

JULY 12-17

The Book of Kells and the Golden Age of Irish Art

Ben Tilghman '99

The Beatles...Four Lads Who Shook the World

Carl Rath '75



JULY 19-24

A Guided Tour Through the History of the American Musical Theater

Roger Nelson

Rebels, Heretics, and Eccentrics in Jewish History

Michael Nutkiewicz

Acoustic Vocal Pedagogy and Voice Physiology

Kenneth Bozeman and Christian Herbst

JULY 26-AUGUST 1

Watercolor: The Expressive Medium

Helen Klebesadel

Exploring Digital Photography II

Philip Krejcarek

AUGUST 2-7

What is There? ... and Why?

Terry Goode

The Third Reich Through German Eyes

Geoff Bakewell

History of Television News

Terry Moran '82

AUGUST 9-14

Lolita: A Closer Look at Nabokov's Scandalous Novel

Peter Thomas

Isaiah of Jerusalem: Visionary and Messenger

Bill Urbrock

Europe and the Modern World: 1920-2015

Tim Crain

AUGUST 16-21

Jane Austen and Her World

Timothy Spurgin

Practically Perfect in Every Way: A Look at Some of the Best Films of the Classic Era and How and Why Their Reputations Endure

Jack Rhodes

The Medieval World: Art and Society

Jane Tibbetts Schulenburg '65

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 4

***Bizzarchaeology:
The Weird Side of World Prehistory***

Peter Peregrine

Lincoln Around the Curriculum

James Cornelius '81

***Paraphrases and Reminiscences:
Exploring the Art of Piano Transcription***

Anthony Padilla

SEPTEMBER 13-18

Heretics and Heroes

Dan Taylor '63

***Getting the Most Out of Your Bridge Game:
Lessons for Intermediate and Advanced Players***

Stephanie Schwingel

The Music of Poetry: Sound, Rhythm, and Voice

Marilyn Taylor

SEPTEMBER 20-25

Maritime History Adventure

Hank Whipple

Exploring How Our Country's Culture of Conflict Creates Political Quagmires

Laura Smythe

America at Mid-Century: The Early Fifties in Film, Literature, and Popular Culture

Jack Rhodes

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 2

Introduction to Modern Day Bridge

Carol Konrad

Fall's Glorious Trees and Shrubs

Don Quintenz

Watercolor: A Fresh Start

Helen Klebesadel

OCTOBER 4-9

Visions and Revisions: Starting Your Novel or Story and Revising It

Dwight Allen '74

OCTOBER 11-16

Judges, Judgments ... and Justice? America's Judiciary in the New Age of Political Pressure

Charles Schudson



Save the date!

This year the **Boynton Society Gala** will be held at the lodge on **August 8, 2015**. Please mark your calendars. We are very excited to welcome you back! You will receive more information and details as we approach the summer months.

There is still room if anyone would like to join the Mr. Lincoln's Springfield trip. Join us July 13-17, 2015 as we retrace Abraham Lincoln's epic journey on the streets he walked.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Breseman by phone at 920-419-6675 or by email: mark.d.breseman@lawrence.edu.



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