

The Boynton Society

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2014 / WINTER 2015

Senior Project Leads to Interactive Tour

By Will Gislason '15

As I reflect upon my time at Lawrence before starting my senior year, it's clear I've learned a lot through the years. However, I've realized that I learned more this past summer than ever I thought possible. Björklunden has provided Celeste Silling '16 and me with a unique opportunity to gain skills beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Director of Björklunden, Mark Breseman '78, has always seen the beautiful trails on the property as one of the most appealing and unique features of Björklunden. There was just one problem: visitors to the property did not have an easy way to learn about the various trees, wildlife and geological features by which they were surrounded. As we all know, one's appreciation is often directly related with one's level of understanding, so he decided it would be a good idea to offer guests of Björklunden a chance to learn why this property is so unique.

Mark began assembling a team to create an enhanced outdoor tour of Björklunden. He recruited Bart De Stasio '82, Dennis and Charlot Nelson Singleton Professor of Biological Sciences and professor of biology, and Alyssa Hakes, assistant professor of biology, to oversee the project. Celeste and I were selected to create an iPad app that would display a visitor's location on a trail map along with coinciding ecological features and facts. Pictures and information on these features could be accessed by simply tapping the feature on the map.

Celeste, a rising junior from New Mexico studying biology, aided the project by researching the natural history of the area, photographing the trails and writing short paragraphs explaining ecological features of the property. A rising senior from the Twin Cities studying biology and environmental studies, I spent the summer on campus building and assembling the app with recently acquired computer programming skills. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to work on this project, not only

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because I gained a new set of technical skills, but also because it provided an opportunity to learn about the geography, ecology and natural history of Door County and Wisconsin.

We are now in the final revision stages of the app and it should be ready for visitors to

Björklunden to use very soon! I hope many of you can use it to learn a bit more about Lawrence University's incredible Door County campus.

This project is just one example of a number of amazing experiences Björklunden gives Lawrence students. We couldn't be more thankful. While there were many reasons Celeste and I were excited to contribute to the project, the main reason was to help Björklunden continue to give people what it has given us—a chance to discover one's passions and explore new areas of interest. 🌿





Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your most generous support of our beloved Björklunden. As you read this issue of the newsletter, it is easy to see the direct impact your gifts and volunteerism have made at the lodge and on the students of all ages who enjoy it. For example, on page 7 you can relate to Pat Mangan '15 as he reflects on the lasting memories he has formed at Björklunden. It is also apparent as you read about the new and exciting educational iPad app that will soon be available to guests at the lodge thanks to a Lawrence University senior project.

Not only are college students given amazing opportunities through access to our Door County safe haven, but you undoubtedly understand the fulfillment of attending events and seminars at Björklunden. I hope that many of you were able to enjoy a summer seminar or relax at the lodge this year, expanding your knowledge and horizons in some way.

Also featured, we had a wonderful Boynton Society Gala in August with a lot to celebrate! During the 2013–14 fiscal year members raised just over \$189,000, which is a fantastic mark and foundation on which to build. This accomplishment shows how important Björklunden is to all of us.

Thank you again for the attention you have shown to Björklunden over the years. Please join with me in giving back to this wonderful place again. With your continued generosity, the Boynton Society will be able to meet its goals this year and, more importantly, enrich the lives of students and visitors alike, who will create their own new and lasting memories of the Björklunden experience. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Bob Schaupp '51
President, Boynton Society
Trustee, Lawrence University



**Help sustain the
Björklunden experience for
generations to come!**

The Lawrence-Downer Legacy Circle is a membership society for anyone who supports the college through a planned gift.

Want to learn more?

Call or email Susan Stellmacher '03
920-832-6551

legacygiving@lawrence.edu

Or visit our website at
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What is your Lawrence-Downer Legacy?



The first call came to our Appleton home at 10 p.m. on a Thursday night. I turned down the sound on the Packers game (No loss there since they were getting clobbered!) and took the call from a Björklunden guest letting me know she was just arriving from Chicago and the entire lodge was dark. She had no idea where the main entrance was and had no interest in tromping around the woods in the complete dark. I was a bit confused as to why the outside lights weren't on but I figured someone just forgot to set the timer. I stayed on the phone with the woman as she used her headlights to light a path to the front door. Once inside it was still plenty dark but there were a couple of folks there to greet her—with flashlights. Oh no, another power outage!

Two weeks prior the power was off for 12 hours which played much havoc with our guests trying to prepare their evening meal. It also caused an all-important electrical coil on the sprinkler system to burn out. I was a bit concerned about the current situation so I called Kim for an update. She said the power was out throughout most of Baileys Harbor but it was expected to come back on by morning. The flashlights and generator should suffice until then. I was able to retire for the evening distraught over the Packers but confident all would be well at Björklunden. Little did I know!

Another phone call to Kim in the morning revealed there were plenty of issues to cause concern. The power was still out; half the lodge had no water; and worst of all, the town's sewer system could not keep up with the reported eight inches plus of rain Baileys Harbor received the night before. The sun was out but the water was still cascading down the hill toward the lodge. Water was slowly rising in the crawlspace and boiler rooms. The sewer line was still overwhelmed on Chapel Lane and as a result sewage was getting into houses. How long before it would back up into the lodge?

Fortunately our by now well-seasoned maintenance wizard, Mark Franke, had sprung in to action and was diverting water from the building and preparing for the pumps to arrive from the Appleton campus. Once the pumps were in place it was clear we would probably not lose any of the boilers or water heaters in the lodge. The power came back on in time to run the pumps but we could not send any water into the sewer system. Our weekend guests had to find another place to meet. Now we had to worry about the sewer still backing up and whether or not we would have to call off the upcoming seminars.

Finally, under a still beautiful blue sky we got the call Saturday afternoon that the sewer system was back online. The pumps were still running; there was still water in the crawl space and boiler rooms; the studio and stabbur had completely flooded basements, but the seminars would go on! Monday we dug drainage pits, kept the pumps running and prepared for another predicted deluge Tuesday night. As it turned out, all was fine. Mark did a tremendous job minimizing any possible damage to the buildings.

It is time to put this flooding stuff behind us and focus on future seminars. You will find a sneak peak of the 2015 seminars on page 6. I hope to see each of you at Björklunden next summer. We will do our best to keep the power on and the flooding to a minimum!

P.S. There is still room if anyone would like to join the trip to Italy April 7–18th. Please email me with questions.

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The Boynton Chapel: A Place Out of Time

Ben Tilghman '99, assistant professor of art history

Nearly everyone who has visited Björklunden has at some point taken the time to tour the Boynton Chapel. While many visitors delight in its diminutive size and wonder at the labor and devotion that Winifred and Donald Boynton poured into the building, others find it too “cute” for their tastes. I’ll confess that I fell into the latter camp when I first encountered the Chapel. While I certainly admired the considerable ambition and work it took to build and decorate the Chapel, my scholarly eyes were distracted by its apparent naiveté. I found the dissonance between the Chapel’s architectural style and its murals particularly grating: the sentimentality of the frescoes undermined the wonderful weirdness of the medieval stave churches the chapel imitates.

As I’ve spent more time and now taught a summer seminar on the Chapel, though, I’ve come to realize that much of what is strange about it is also rather interesting.

Rather than see the divergent styles as clashing, it seems to me that they are crucial for creating just the kind of spiritual space the Boyntons hoped to build.

The most important thing to bear in mind about the Chapel is that it was never meant to be a replica: the Boyntons did not want to recreate a Norwegian stave church at Björklunden. Rather, they adapted an old tradition to create something that was very much of its time and place. In her book *Faith Builds a Chapel*, Winifred describes extensively researching the stave church tradition, but only so that she might pick and choose what elements would best fit the chapel’s core themes of prayer and peace. While the exterior still looks quite a bit like the famous examples at Urnes and Borgund, as well as the small church at the Maihaugen Museum in Lillehammer that directly inspired the Chapel, Winifred chose largely to abandon the traditional painting styles found inside those buildings. The closest affinity can be found in the stylized floral elements known as *rosemaling* (Norwegian for rose painting), a folk decorative art that appears in the Uvdal stave church. Winifred’s *rosemaling*, however, more closely resembles the modern American variant developed and popularized by Per Lysne of Stoughton, Wis., whose art was featured in national magazines in the '30s and sold in Marshall Field’s department store in Chicago. Winifred’s sources ranged even further: she drew inspiration from El Greco, Raphael (and his imitators), medieval English stone-carving and even magazine ads and greeting cards. A group of symbols depicting the major faiths of the world carved into the façade of the Baha’i Temple in Wilmette (right near the Boyntons’ winter residence of Highland Park) found their way into the margins of a panel in the chapel. Winifred found inspiration for her art everywhere.

What inspired Winifred to draw on such disparate sources? We might partly ascribe it to a 20th-century desire to bring the world to America. Events like the 1893 World’s Columbian Exhibition in Chicago (which Winifred attended, and where Donald’s father purchased the bell that now hangs in the Chapel’s belfry) inspired in many people an interest in the different artistic traditions of



Baha’i Temple, detail of the façade, Wilmette, Ill.



Boynton Chapel, exterior



The "Ecumenical Panel" with religious symbols in margin, Boynton Chapel

the world. But Winifred also saw a spiritual message in her free mixing of styles. Noting that the Chapel was meant to be universal in its religious concept, she wrote, "It seems to us that our chapel architecture is a

composite of all ages," and then quotes a passage from the Bible: "That which hath been is now; and that which to be hath already been" (Ecclesiastes 3:15).

The anachronism of the decoration, then, is not a result of confusion or caprice, but a means of creating a more spiritual space. By drawing on so many historical moments, the Boyntons created a space that is somehow outside of time, one that is "timeless." The Second World War raged as Winifred and Donald labored on the chapel, destroying countless artistic treasures (including some stave churches) and threatening to erase the history of whole cultures. Against this backdrop, a place that blended together many disparate traditions into a single whole must have felt very peaceful indeed. 🌿



Boynton Society Gala

It was a beautiful August day for Boynton Society members to gather at Björklunden for the annual Boynton Society Gala. This passionate group took well-deserved time to celebrate their shared commitment to Björklunden as well as the many wonderful things that happen there each year!

Friends of Björklunden were reminded of why people love to learn at Lawrence's northern campus with the opportunity to participate in mini seminars given by Lawrence faculty, alumni and friends. The afternoon options were diverse and led by wonderful presenters. Sessions explored topics ranging from film and theatre to politics and the history of the Boynton Chapel.



Shortly after, guests were invited to enjoy a performance by an impressive bass operatic singer, Matthias Wippich accompanied by Lawrence University professor Kenneth Bozeman. Many were moved by the performance and by the sincere thankfulness expressed by Boynton Society President Bob Schaupp '51. Bob announced this year's accomplishments which included receiving 321 gifts that qualified for membership in the Boynton Society. He added, "Your gifts also provide our students the opportunity to experience Björklunden each weekend throughout the academic year. We had nearly 1,800 students visit this past year alone. Thank you for all your continued support; we are very grateful."



It was wonderful to see the Lakeside Seminar Room and deck come alive with stories of Björklunden's enduring impact on Lawrence and the Door County community. All in all the day was a success and a great opportunity to gather at Björklunden and celebrate the generosity of the estate's biggest supporters. 🌿

2014 Björklunden Awards

The Boynton Society Gala provided the opportunity for President Burstein to recognize some longtime friends of Björklunden for the loyal support they have provided over the years. These were two great examples of the vested interest Boynton Society members take in preserving the treasure of Björklunden.

Barbara Larsen '49 was presented with the 2015 Richard Warch Outstanding Service to Björklunden Award for the commitment she and her late husband, George Larsen '49, showed for enhancing the lodge. The passion they shared for learning is so apparent when you look at the extent of their involvement since the early 1980s. The way they chose to extend their love of education, nature and music to future generations of Lawrence students and alumni, as well as Door County residents and visitors, has left a lasting impact. We remember George's legacy and thank Barbara for their volunteerism and financial support of Björklunden for it definitely wouldn't be the place it is today without them.

Joe Hopfensperger '52, a third deserving Boynton Society member was honored for his exemplary leadership and



Joe Hopfensperger '52 and Barbara Larsen '49 with President Mark Burstein at the Boynton Society Gala.

betterment of the entire Björklunden community. Heavily involved with Lawrence University in many ways, and a former resident director of Björklunden, Joe's strengthening actions and support have contributed to the success of the weekend student programs and have laid the groundwork for the educational opportunities students, alumni and Door County community members have available. From the work he did to recruit volunteers forming the group "Friends of Björklunden," to reroofing the lodge, we all sincerely appreciate Joe's dedicated service to Björklunden. 🌿

2015 BJÖRKLUNDEN SEMINARS

As a member of the Boynton Society, you have the opportunity to register for Björklunden seminars before the general public. However, the 2015 Björklunden seminar schedule is not yet finalized so we are unable to provide you with a complete seminar listing in this newsletter.

Boynton Society members will receive separate notification as soon as the schedule is complete and pre-registration will begin at that time.

Here's a sneak peek at some of next year's seminars:

The Beatles...Four Lads Who Shook the World

Carl Rath, Lawrence University Conservatory of Music Professor of Bassoon

Bizzarchaeology: The Weird Side of World Prehistory

Peter Peregrine, Lawrence University Professor of Anthropology

The Art of Piano Transcription

Anthony Padilla, Lawrence University Conservatory of Music Associate Professor of Music

Learning the Language of the Earth: Recognizing Rocks and Minerals

Marcia Bjornerud, Lawrence University Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies

Jane Austen and Her World

Tim Spurgin, Lawrence University Associate Professor of English and English Literature

The Book of Kells and the Golden Age of Irish Art

Ben Tilghman, Lawrence University Assistant Professor of Art History

The Third Reich Through German Eyes

Geoff Bakewell, Rhodes College Professor of Greek and Roman Studies

Isaiah of Jerusalem: Visionary and Messenger

Bill Urbrock, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies

A Change of Pace

Pat Mangan '15

When one reflects on four years of experiencing Björklunden, it typically doesn't happen during the most rigorous and intense workout of the year. As a senior on Lawrence University's cross country team, I'm sure you can relate when I say that picturesque Dawson's Creek-style moments of reflection typically aren't a fixture of the distance running experience. I, on the other hand, can say that for this particular run, it was.

As I slogged and schlepped my way around Björklunden for our eight-mile workout, I thought of my four years here as a desperate distraction to my current predicament. I thought of my time at Lawrence's northern campus; of sitting by a fire asking questions to the freshman that wouldn't even be present in an interview with Google, searching frantically around the property for the mythical "Big Wood," and enjoying time in the lodge playing cribbage waiting for Ben or Kim to ring the bell, signaling the start of mealtime.

During mile six, all these memories combined into a warm and fuzzy sensation, a feeling that I certainly wouldn't



expect during this particular moment in time. The boost gave me a chance to finally cross the line one last time, feeling better than when I started. After dramatically finishing and overcoming the feeling of, "Oh my, did I actually just run all that?" I looked up and around at the lodge feeling something else—satisfaction. Because I knew how irreplaceable these experiences were. This particular eight-mile run could never be duplicated. And although I that my time at Björklunden had come to an end as a Lawrence athlete, I knew I had spent it well. 🌿



Meet Kayla O'Brien

As a Ripon College graduate and a business administration and psychology major, I have always shared a passion for unique learning opportunities in my personal and professional life. That is part of the reason I am thrilled

to have a new position with Lawrence University where I can help cultivate and sustain the Björklunden legacy and the experience of a liberal arts education. I am passionate about the knowledge I obtained and fun I got to have while attending Ripon as a two-sport athlete and see my passion growing for Lawrence every day as I get to meet and talk with the wonderful people associated with the college!

Some of you may have met me the day of the Boynton Society Gala, as I was fortunate enough to visit Björklunden for the first time that weekend! I was immediately enthralled with the buzz in the lodge and the

friendly people. I also have a great appreciation of the beautiful views of the property. I grew up in Fond du Lac near Lake Winnebago and love spending time outside hiking, picking wild flowers, biking or kayaking. It is easy to see why people enjoy being at Björklunden, and why it is so important to support it.

I am eager as I will be quite busy this year with a new position and working diligently to expand the Boynton Society to ensure Björklunden can be enjoyed for years to come. Not to mention, my fiancé and I are in the middle of planning a wedding for next June and have a new puppy! In the past, I've worked professionally on community outreach teams for hospice organizations. I am also committed to continuing my volunteerism as a hospice companion providing support to patients and families during the passing process.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me share a little about myself and to express my sincere excitement as I join the team at Lawrence to help contribute to the betterment of the Björklunden community. 🌿

“This is Björklunden” Event

By Linda Laarman '73

On Sunday, May 18, a group of new and old friends of Björklunden gathered to experience what happens at this special place in ways they may not have previously enjoyed—including mingling with Lawrence students up at the northern campus for the weekend. An all-day affair, “This is Björklunden” included chapel tours, trail hikes and a presentation of Björklunden’s history. Participants lunched with students and then were treated to a low brass instruments concert presented by Lawrence musicians. Midafternoon, Tim Spurgin, Bonnie Glidden Buchanan Professor of English Literature and associate professor of English, led participants in a discussion he called “What would you do with the ring of Gyges?” The



story of the ring of Gyges is in Plato’s *Republic*, so this part of the day was a taste of both summer seminars at Björklunden and a *Freshman Studies* class in Appleton. The day concluded with a reception in the lodge’s Great Room.

For many reading this newsletter, the “wow factor” of Björklunden needs no explanation. You have your own special feelings for the place. You already know what an asset it is for Lawrence students and faculty, Door Peninsula residents, those seeking a destination for business meetings and social gatherings, and summer seminar participants. Be hopeful that “This is Björklunden” helped others gain the feelings and knowledge you already have. Please spread the word. Let’s expand the number of people who experience and enjoy Björklunden, and who are stewards through membership in the Boynton Society. 🌿



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