

September 2010



# RESORTER REPORTER

## Congress of Minnesota Resorts

### CONGRESS OF MINNESOTA RESORTS FALL CONFERENCE

Is your summer busy? Not busy? Is your resort in need of a sprucing up? Do you need some new business ideas to spark yourself and your guests? If so...mark your calendar for the fall conference!

Join your fellow resorters on Oct. 31-Nov. 2nd for a fun-filled 3 days at Cragun's Resort & Conference Center in the Brainerd area. We've held conferences there in past years and the facility and food are spectacular. You don't want to miss it!

Plans are underway for some awesome speakers and presentations....our goal is to save you millions and make your resort top-notch! Sharing ideas with each other over breakfast, lunch and dinner makes us all better resorters.

Resorters, plan to come to the Vendor Show at the CMR Fall Conference on November 1, 1 - 4 p.m. There will be vendors showing clothing, furniture, water toys, docks, foods, reservation programs, etc. You will have a chance to win a door prize from each vendor as well as finding out about what they have to offer to help make your resort the best it can be! Come and enjoy the lovely pool area and a cash bar as you peruse the vendors' booths. We'll see you there!

Watch for the brochure with more details. The fall conference is always a wonderful way to close the summer season and share your experiences of the 2010 season with people who know what we're all talking about!

**We hope to see everyone there!**

### VENDORS VENDORS VENDORS

Save the date: Nov. 1 for the CMR Fall Conference Vendor Show! It will be held at Cragun's Resort and Conference Center in Brainerd during the annual CMR Fall Conference. More information will be coming in September or contact Sheldon & Mary Shiebe at [stay@knottypinesresort.com](mailto:stay@knottypinesresort.com) or [meschiebe@hotmail.com](mailto:meschiebe@hotmail.com) or call 218-732-5466

### ELECTION OF NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With the arrival of fall and a slower resort season thoughts turn to new leadership. At the Fall Conference in Brainerd the Annual Meeting of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts is held. During that meeting we hold nominations and election of new board members. If you are interested in getting more information about the responsibilities of being a Board Member, please contact any of the current board members that are listed on the back page of this newsletter or contact the CMR office at 888-761-4245 or email: [CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com](mailto:CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com).

## Honk, Honk....election is coming!

CMR has long been promoting the need for resorters to “Get on the Bus” to St. Paul to tell elected officials our concerns and seek legislation to improve resorting. With a major election just a few days away (46 days to be exact) we need to make sure we are talking to candidates for office before the election so we don't get run over by the bus come January 2011.

Minnesota will be electing a new Governor this November and critical issues of tourism, property taxes, schools calendars, and agency regulations are all going to be front and center for us. Yet, scant little is being said by the candidates about these important concerns. CMR should take the initiative to get the conversation going to educate candidates about our issues – and educate ourselves about how these leaders view resorting. To get results at the Capitol next session we take the steps to be heard NOW - before the election.

We've been looking at candidate web sites, and each site has the ability to ask questions and possibly get some feedback. CMR is challenging our members to contact these campaigns with specific tourism questions and see what we can find out. Our plan is to get some feedback at the CMR fall conference October 31-November 1 at Cragun's Resort.

The web site information for each candidate for Governor for the major parties is listed below. Contact one, two, or all three and let them know your concerns. Please let us know what kind of feedback you get at the Fall Conference!!!

<http://www.emmerforgovernor.com>

<http://markdayton.org>

[www.horner2010.com](http://www.horner2010.com)

And, we can't list them all out here, but if you're in contact with your local legislative candidates before the election please let us know! If you need to know who your candidates are please email CMR lobbyist Joel Carlson @ [jdcresearch@aol.com](mailto:jdcresearch@aol.com).

Thanks - and see you at the Fall Conference.

CMR Board and Legislative Committee

## NEW MEMBERS

New members/owners since the August newsletter. Please give them a call or email of encouragement and welcome them to the Congress of Minnesota Resorts.

Resort Members:

Michael & Aggie Penty, Four Seasons Resort on Rush Lake, 35232 Rush Lake Loop, Ottertail MN 56571 Phone: 218-367-2792 Email: [info@fishrushlake.com](mailto:info@fishrushlake.com) Website: [www.fishrushlake.com](http://www.fishrushlake.com)

Mike & Connie Luppés, Whippoorwill Resort, 21421 CTY 24, Park Rapids, MN 56470 Phone: 218-732-4639 Email: [info@whippoorwillresort.com](mailto:info@whippoorwillresort.com) Website: [www.whippoorwillresort.com](http://www.whippoorwillresort.com)

Chad & Lisa Gabrielson, Big McDonald Resort, 34654 Big McDonald Lane, Dent, MN 56528 Phone: 218-758-2369 Email: [bigmcd@eot.com](mailto:bigmcd@eot.com) Website: [www.bigmcdonaldresort.com](http://www.bigmcdonaldresort.com)

New Name:

The Leonard Family, Leonard's Family Resort, 30424 410th ST, Dent, MN 56528 Phone: 218-758-2716 Email: [email@leonardsfamilyresort.com](mailto:email@leonardsfamilyresort.com) Website: [www.leonardsfamilyresort.com](http://www.leonardsfamilyresort.com) (Formerly East Silent Resort)

Associate Members:

Judd Brink, MN Backyard Birds, PO Box 765, Brainerd, MN 56401 Phone: 218-838-4784 Email: [jb@mnbayardbirds.com](mailto:jb@mnbayardbirds.com) Website: [www.MNBACKYARDBIRDS.COM](http://www.MNBACKYARDBIRDS.COM)

## 2010 CMR FALL RESORT TOUR

On Wednesday, September 8 the Congress of Minnesota Resorts held its annual Resort Tour! Three resorts in the Marcell and Deer River area opened their doors and cabins to us. About 35 people and 21 resorts attended this annual event coordinated by Timberly Christiansen of Finn'n Feather Resort. A big THANK YOU to Timberly for helping the CMR carry on the tradition of this educational and fun event.

The day started out promptly at 9:00 with everyone gathering at Eagle Nest Lodge. Bryan and Sue Harris and their two kids, Gunnar and Anneka welcomed us to view their beautiful resort. With many new cabins and improvements and a huge dock system, there were many useful ideas to take and cabins to view. Since they cater to mostly fisherman, it was great to see how they make use of twin beds/king beds to accommodate different types of groups and sizes.

After that we continued over to Lakewood Lodge. Driving through these back roads you really feel like you are close to the edge of the earth. What a beautiful area, definitely off the beaten path. The sign that greets everyone at Lakewood Lodge received a lot of photos from other resorters. A large sign similar to fire danger signs reads "Stress Level LOW Today Only You Can Prevent Burnout". We knew we would be in for a treat. Steve and Danielle Casselman invited us to tour their wonderful log cabins. They had a beautiful lodge and very nice log cabins where dishwashers, and gas grills were provided for each. So many neat little touches in decorating and wood work capture your eyes.

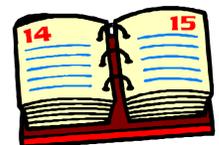
Finally we ended the tour with a trip to Cedar Point Resort. Tim and Karen Senger showed us exactly what you can do when on a budget and dealing with setback restrictions. They have taken many older cabins and completely remodeled by adding beautiful pine interiors, log furniture and many unique details in each cabin, definitely a treasure to behold. They also have a restaurant where they serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

After touring all these wonderful resorts, the group got a little hungry. Many resorters took advantage of having a few extra hours to spend chatting with fellow resorters, venting about guests, and talking rates, bookings, and plans for the winter and enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Timberwolf Inn. It is always a wonderful time when you can sit back with your friends and talk about problems we all truly understand. Another wonderful time, can't wait to see where we go next year. Each time it really opens your eyes to how many wonderful and unique resorts we have in our very own back yard, if we only venture out to see. See you all next year!

Timberly Christiansen Finn'n Feather Resort Making Memories [www.finn-n-feather.com](http://www.finn-n-feather.com) 800-776-3466

## CMR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| October 6, 2010          | CMR Board Meeting; Little Boy Resort, Longville  |
| Oct 31 & Nov 1 & 2, 2010 | CMR Fall Conference, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd   |
| Nov 1, 2010<br>Vendors   | CMR Vendor Show, 1 pm-4 pm Cragun's Resort, Brainerd<br>more info to come in September |



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Keep your listing current  
on the CMR website.

## CMR MISSION STATEMENT

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts exists to help family owned and operated resorts in Minnesota to continue as a viable segment of the Minnesota tourism industry

## CMR MOTTO

The Congress of Minnesota Resort's motto is "Resorters Helping Resorters" We believe that none of us is as smart as all of us.

## CMR'S 2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President:

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