

May 2013



RESORTER REPORTER

Congress of Minnesota Resorts

www.Minnesota-Resorts.com

Message From the CMR President

Greetings fellow resorters!

I hope that when you get this, the ice is off the lake and the snow is off the ground. It has been a long, cold, snowy winter. As I write this, we still have snow on the ground; a lot of ice on the lake, the temperature on May 1st is 30 degrees this morning and only 10 days to fishing opener. I think this will be my first time during fishing opener that I can use 2 lines to fish with! Like everyone else, I am 'chomping at the bit' to get things cleaned up for the season before we start having guests.

Last year, our ice was off the lake by March 25th, clean up and spring cleaning was almost completed by now and we were far ahead on all the little projects. This year we just started doing some smaller projects and the yard work will have to wait for warmer days. On the brighter side, my bookings are up this year and things do look great.

On April 9th, CMR had its spring workshop at Arrowwood Lodge in Baxter. It was a nice facility to have it in and what a great opportunity to connect with everyone again. We had a lot of good speakers and great food. Thanks to the conference/workshop committee for getting this all together.

Our legislative work is still continuing as the legislative session is not over. We still have to watch many issues. As I write this, they are talking of raising income taxes, lowering sales taxes but including clothing and services to the sales tax, increasing alcohol and cigarette tax and a whole host of options. It also is favorable that the state will give more funding to Explore Minnesota to increase their advertising for the state. This is a big plus in helping our state compete with many of our surrounding states that have much larger budgets.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) has become a major issue for our lakes and rivers again this year. Again, things have changed. Now, the legislature wants to add a fee to boats, including out-of-state boats and have a sticker put on the boats. I am still waiting to see what the outcome will be on this. The bill has seen a lot of changes just in the last few weeks.

As always, check your listing on the CMR web site and be sure that it is up to date. We are continuing our great internet presence and have seen increased traffic to CMR's web site. Also, while you are getting ready for the season (and any time of the year) check out our associate members and purchase from those who support us!

I hope that your season is filled with guests and that you stay refreshed during your busy season. Even though the winter is late, spring has not arrived (in my book); I hope that your summer will be great!

Respectfully,

Mark Novotny, CMR President

Hyde-A-Way Bay Resort, Hackensack

Congratulations to the 2013 CMR Scholarships Recipients'

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts (CMR) was established in 1984, with our theme of "Resorters Helping Resorters." One of our goals is to provide scholastic achievement within the resorting community. Scholarship moneys became available from the previously pledged \$1000 to the Minnesota Office of Tourism, Endowed Chair and in March of 1996 the CMR Scholarship Program was set in motion. With the addition of the Carol Kirchner Memorial Scholarship in 1999; and in 2012 with the addition of the Pine Insurance Scholarship, four \$500 scholarships are awarded each year. The scholarships are to be used for tuition and/or related fees by providing assistance to students in pursuit of their academic or vocational advancement.

Every year we have top quality applicants, all worthy of the awards. This year was no exception. The CMR Scholarship Committee and Board wish to extend our congratulations to the following recipients of 2013 Scholarship winners.

CMR Scholarships:

Katherine Anderson, daughter of Gayle Anderson, Sunset Point Resort, 37842 Broderson RD, Cohasset MN

Grace Bateman, daughter of Bob & Jennifer Bateman, Two Inlets Resort, 32240 County Hwy 50, Park Rapids MN

Carol Kirchner Memorial Scholarship:

Carly Masloski, daughter of Tom & Brenda Masloski, Weslake Resort, 28507 County Hwy 35, Underwood MN

Pine Insurance Scholarship:

Nathan Ahrendt, son of Dave & Mary Ahrendt, Half Moon Trail Resort, 34881 County Hwy 46, Park Rapids, MN

Spring 2013 School of Resorting Classes

The School of Resorting has been busy once again lining up classes to help its members gain hands-on knowledge and valuable resorting information. In March, we held a Small Engine Repair class in the Bemidji area. It was well attended and all participants were able to not only get their equipment back in working order, but also learn about trouble shooting and maintenance. It is a valuable tool for a resort owner to have as a resort owner always having to fix something.

In April, we held two more classes in conjunction with the Spring Workshop. It was a day well spent on sharpening skills with the Reservation Master classes and gaining certification on CPR and First Aid in the other class.

There was also a Ladies Crafting day held up at Cedar Rapids Lodge on April 17th, where ladies enjoyed crackerbarrel talks and getting together to make tile coasters to be used in their cabins....etc.

If you missed any of the classes, keep your eyes posted for more chances to join the fun and learning. We are always looking for new class ideas and instructors, so if you ever come up with a topic, or know a skill or trade that could benefit members of the CMR, shoot them our way and we'll do our best to organize a class for everyone. Contact Timberly Christiansen at finnfeather@hotmail.com.

Coming up, stayed tuned for the next big event, the Fall Resort Tour. The location is set this year in the Isle area, with dates and resorts to be determined. The tour usually held in the first part of September keep checking for more details.

Timberly Christiansen, School of Resorting Chairperson, finnfeather@hotmail.com

CMR 2013 Fall Conference, October 27, 28 & 29

Radisson Harborview, Duluth, MN

CMR Spring Workshop was held April 9th!

CMR Spring Workshop was a great success April 9th at Arrowwood in Brainerd with 58 in attendance. Crackerbarrels were lively with surprisingly high numbers of attendees participating and being engaged - just what we want! All speakers and topics were well received according to feedback forms as the Workshop/Conference Committee was happy to note. If you didn't come join the camaraderie, the sharing of resort wisdom, the support and education, you really missed out! Make a point of attending the next one and you won't be sorry. Really, really! None of us is as smart as all of us and we are resorters helping resorters. Fall Conference will be October 27-29 in Duluth at the Radisson Harborview and YES! We'll definitely be planning some fun stuff as a bonus day of relaxation on Saturday, October 26. Who knows what trouble we'll get into? Hope to see ya there!

Kim Bowen, Crow Wing Crest Lodge relax@crowwing.com

P.S. We are always looking for speakers and topics for these things; please don't be shy in passing along suggestions to us on the Conference/Workshop Committee.

Yahoo Groups Chatline

Fellow Resorters:

To date, we have approximately 91% of the membership signed up on the Resorter's Yahoo-group. **Welcome aboard to the new folks on the Chat line!**

There are some instances where E-blasts will still be used, such as delivering the Resorter Reporter Newsletter, or other PDF attachments i.e. scholarship applications or Resorter of the Year nomination forms.

We will post the rules to this group on a regular basis to remind everyone that you are asked to follow a couple of simple guidelines to this moderated service, please pay special attention to #2 below.

1. No advertising retail items (feel free to sell "experienced" resort equipment)
2. Please send messages to the group only when they need the group's attention (please contact individual resorters directly)
3. Please identify you and your resort at the end of your e-mail (this is good marketing and helps improve communication)
4. Please remember that many people in the tourism industry *may* see your e-mail, therefore please try to discuss policies and individuals in a constructive manner.
5. In keeping with the CMR board's policy, the purpose of this yahoo group, is to provide a format for resorters helping resorters through education. Specific questions pertaining to pricing of resort goods or services are not acceptable or appropriate on this site.

Thanks for making this a great discussion group!

Su Ugstad, Yahoo Groups Chatline Moderator, rsugstad@means.net or 218-566-2346

Forms for Hiring Employees

Hire employees! You can now access the hiring employees reference material and forms by going to the CMR website www.Minnesota-Resorts.com to print any of the forms. Go into the CMR website and scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on Membership, then by using your Login and Password you will be able to go to Education Materials and click on any of the forms that you might need and click print. If you need any further assistance contact Vicky Krattenmaker at CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com or call 320-212-5107.

NEED \$500 FOR SCHOOL?

It is not too early for your child or grandchild to get the application started!

Application needs to be at the CMR Office March 15, 2014

Each year the Congress of Minnesota Resorts offers four \$500 scholarships to a junior or senior in high school or a current undergraduate or technical school student. March 15, 2014 is the deadline for the scholarship application to be returned to the Congress of Minnesota Resorts office. A scholarship application can be printed by going to the CMR website www.Minnesota-Resorts.com. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on Membership, then by using your Login and Password you will be able to go to Applications and click on Scholarship Application and print a copy. If you need further assistance please contact Vicky by emailing: CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com or call 320-212-5107.

NOMINATING RESORTERS FOR THE 2013 RESORTER'S OF THE YEAR AWARD SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 DEADLINE

The Congress of Minnesota Resorts selects, through nomination by its members, one resort and resort owner that has shown a dedication to the improvement of the Minnesota Resort Industry by adopting and carrying out business policies and practices that reflect a personal pride in the industry as a whole. They also live up to the organization's motto of "Resorters Helping Resorters" by involvement in community activities and by displaying a willingness to help other resort owners to successfully operate Minnesota resorts.

You can go to the CMR website www.Minnesota-Resorts.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on Membership. Then, by using your User Name & Password you will get into the Members Only sections and click on Applications then print a copy of Resorter of the Year Nomination form. Mail the completed form to: Congress of Minnesota Resorts, PO Box 358, New London, MN 56273-0358. If you need further assistance please contact Vicky by emailing: CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com or call 320-212-5107.

New Members & New Owners!

New Resort Member:

Marc & Lisa Thiery, Birch Forest Lodge, 4442 Birch Forest RD, Orr MN 55771-8247 Phone: 218-757-3479

Email: birchforestlodge@gmail.com Website: www.birchforestlodge.com

Your neighboring resort or favorite vendor could be listed in this area!

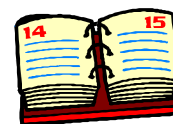
If you think a neighboring resort would benefit from being a Congress of Minnesota Resorts member please send their contact information to us or visit with them about the benefits of your membership with the Congress of Minnesota Resorts

We have an Associate Membership for vendors that have products or services that have helped you. Please contact the office with their contact information so we can contact the vendor.

Congress of Minnesota Resorts, CMR@Minnesota-Resorts.com or 320-212-5107

CMR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 5, 2013	CMR Board Meeting
Sept. 1, 2013	Resorter of the Year Nominations due at CMR Office
Sept. 2013	CMR Fall Resort Tour, Isle Area, date to be announced later
Oct. 26, 2013	CMR Pre-Conference Fun Day, Duluth, MN more info to be announced!
Oct. 27 - 29, 2013	CMR Fall Conference, Radisson Harborview, Duluth, MN
Oct. 28, 2013	CMR Vendor Expo, Radisson Harborview, Duluth, MN 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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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 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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