

Camp Wilderness History Project

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Preacher's Grove(s)

- **Locations:**

- 1) Original: On west edge of camp, up the hill from Bad Axe Lake (see map)
47.09649354549748, -94.9609905672419
- 2) Current: On Northwest shore of Bad Axe 47.09499750439091, -94.95756475255061

- **Why was it named?**

Preacher's Grove was named after Itasca State Parks's own "Preacher's Grove" of stately pines.

- **Named by whom?**

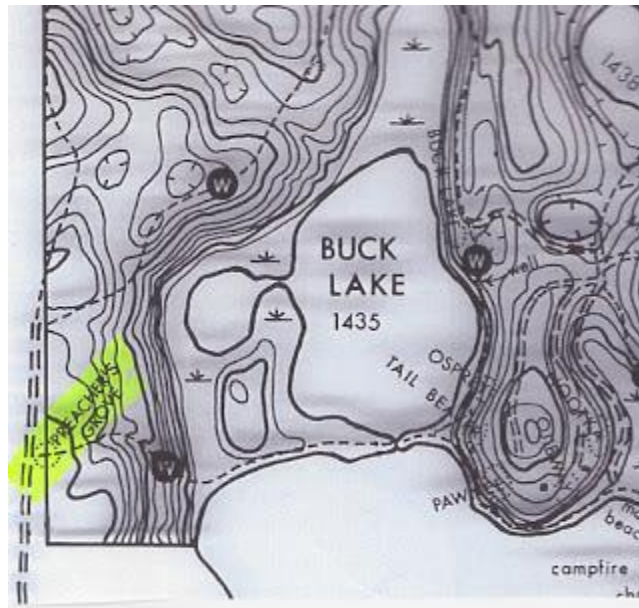
Not sure, but probably sometime in 40's or 50's

- **Purpose of site?**

The original site was used as a hiking and/or overnight destination until about the late 1970's. Preacher's Grove was very primitive camping and was only a location- no tables, well pumps, latrines or campfire rings. Preacher's Grove provided a brush free red pine forest floor with many flat places to pitch tents, as well as downed logs for sitting and/or firewood.

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1975 map showing the original location of *Preacher's Grove*

- What else do you know?

- **“Preacher’s Grove” Original Site**

- Preacher’s Grove was located at the very top of the old White Trail, that ascended away from the Northwest shoreline of Bad Axe Lake. While it was on a very high point (est: 1550 ft), the dense tree cover prevented a view of the lake, although it didn't take much wind to get a fresh breeze through the site. Sometime around 1978-1980, the Preacher’s Grove pines were logged off and not replanted with pines (or perhaps a failed planting). The old white trail was lightly used after that point and the trail eventually grew over. The spot that was home to the original Preacher’s Grove is now teeming with poplar and brush.

- **“Preacher’s Grove” #2- A Move Down to the Lake**

- In the early 2010’s, the White Trail was reopened to accommodate the outpost on the Northwest shore of Bad Axe Lake, and the outpost was renamed “Preacher's Grove”. This site includes a picnic table and an outhouse.

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The Association of the Northern Lights Camps has established this trail with the hopes for a deeper understanding of the heritage and legacy of Camp Wilderness and the Northern Lights Council.

We would appreciate any feedback that you may have from the accuracy of the information to any additional information.

[Update/Correct the History Project or Trail](#)

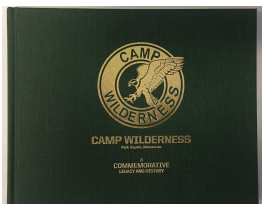
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[Contact the History Center](#) or northernlightsalumni@gmail.com



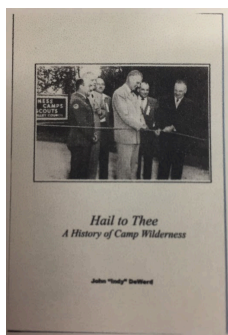
Patch are available for purchase \$15 in the Camp Trading Post, at the Center for Scouting in Fargo, or by contacting the Association at northernlightsalumni@gmail.com

Proceeds going to the History Center to help with operating cost & expanding our collection



The Coffee Table Keepsake book w/pictures \$10 available at the Camp Trading Post or Fargo's Center for Scouting

and



**There's a limited number of
“Hail to Thee - A History of Camp Wilderness”
\$20 (plus \$5 mailing) available at the Center for Scouting in Fargo
or by contacting the [Association](#)**

Developed and Supported by the Northern Lights Alumni Association