

Ekali Lake Ecology Camp 2010



Students



Grayson Somers
Age:13
Fort Providence



Kody Hardisty
Age:13
Jean Marie River



Edmund Gargan
Age:13
Fort Providence



Spencer Bonnetrouge
Age:13
Fort Providence

Students



Tamara Graham
Age:12
Hay River



Julianne Isiah-Tanche
Age:13
Fort Simpson



Tiffany Larter
Age:12
Fort Simpson



Talia Klassen
Age:12
Hay River

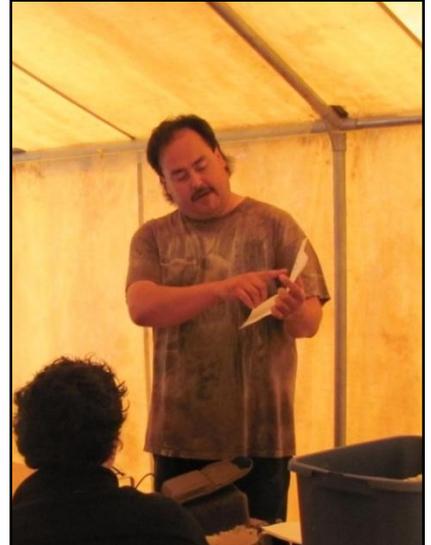
Staff



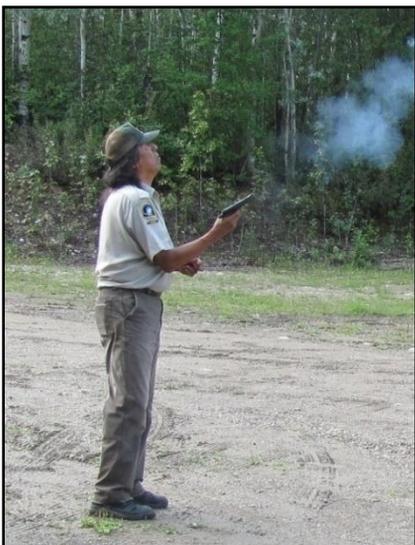
Travis Minoza
Maintenance
JMR



Susan Deneyoua
Cook
JMR



Danny Allaire
Instructor
ENR



George Tsetso
Instructor
ENR



Angel Kuliktana
Cook
JMR

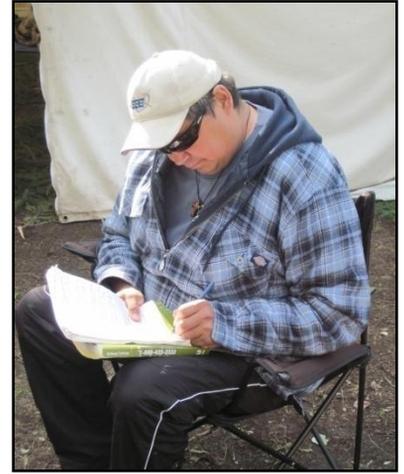
Staff



Laura Sanguez
Supervisor
JMR



Ernest Hardisty
Elder
JMR



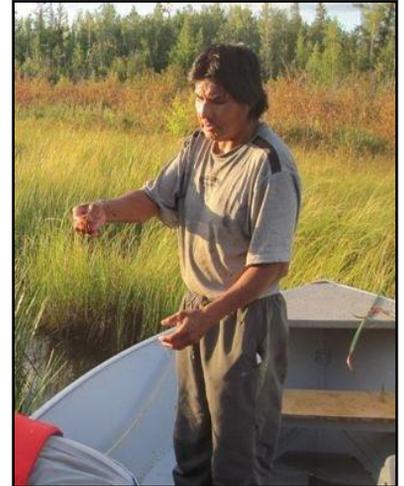
Allan Browning
Coordinator
JMR



Marylouise Sanguez
Elder
JMR



Bruce Townsend
Instructor
AAROM



Angus Sanguez
Guide/Supervisor
JMR

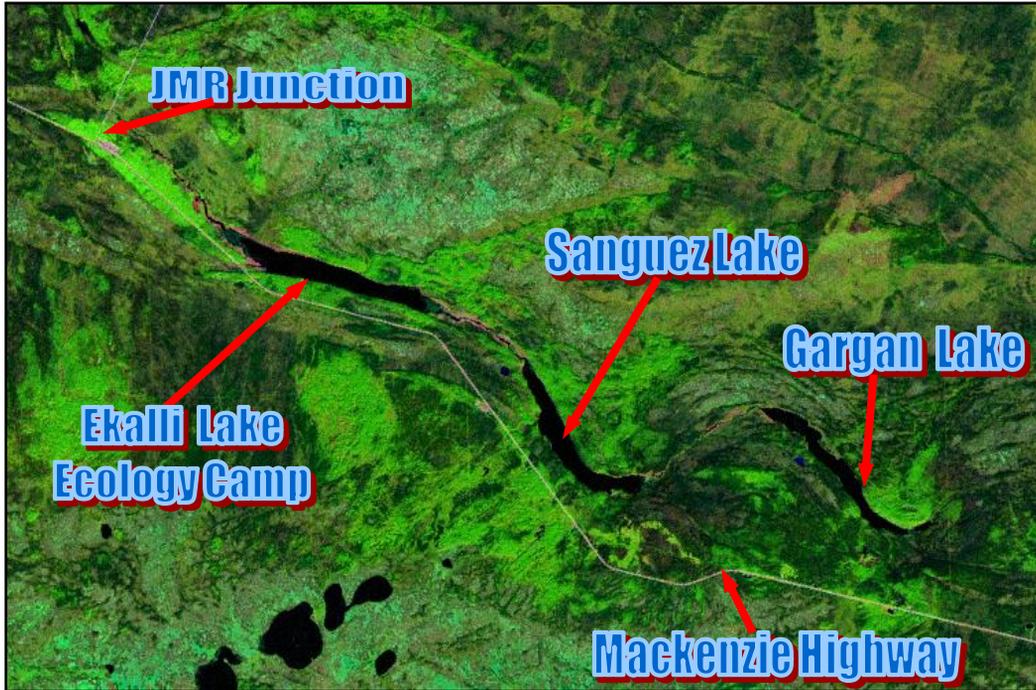


Rufus Sanguez
Maintenance
JMR

Mike Low
Instructor
AAROM



Ekali Lake and surrounding area



After the students unloaded their gear and met everyone, they were given an orientation of the camp, provided with the camp rules, and assigned their accommodations.



Ekali Lake Ecology Camp.



GPS and Satellite Collars

Danny taught the students how to use a GPS in the field. The students manually entered waypoints into a GPS. Danny showed the students satellite collars that ENR is using to track boreal caribou and wood bison in the Dehcho Region. The students took turns hiding and finding the collars with a VHF receiver.



A student trying to find a hidden collar with a VHF receiver.

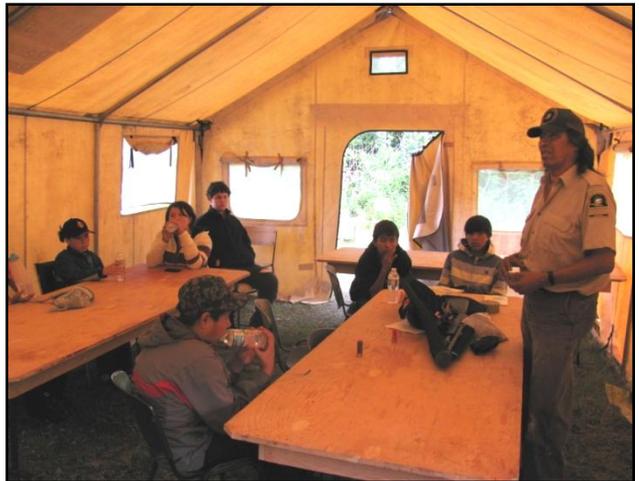
Danny showing the students where collared boreal caribou are in the Dehcho Region.



Bear Safety

George Tsetso, a renewable resource officer with ENR taught the students about bear safety. He taught the students how to properly store food while out on the land, garbage disposal techniques, and many other helpful safety tips were reviewed. Many different types of bear deterrents were explained and demonstrated. Safety in Bear Country handouts were given out at the end of the lesson.

George Tsetso explaining the tools used as bear deterrents by officers.



A student shooting a bear banger.

Medicinal Plant Identification

Elder Ernest Hardisty taught how to identify medicinal plants of the boreal forest. Rat root, a very important aboriginal medicinal plant was harvested at Ekali Lake. The students found it quite interesting and eagerly participated in collecting Rat root.



Rat root left to dry.



Ernest harvesting the rat root plant to bring back to the camp.



Ernest showing how to properly harvest rat root from the plant.



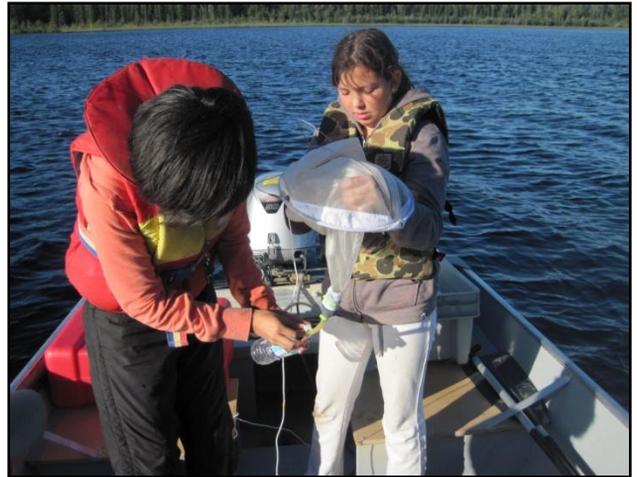
Wild and Wacky books were handed out to the students.

Water Ecology

During the course of the camp, Bruce and Mike taught 8 modules on water ecology to the students. Freshwater zooplankton, the water cycle, dissecting fish, contaminants and food web dynamics were some of topics taught to the students. Students went out on field trips and used scientific equipment to do experiments. The zooplankton were viewed under a microscope by the students.



Mike explaining to the students the different types of aquatic creatures found in the Seine Net.



Students filtering their Plankton Net into a water bottle.



Students dragging a Plankton Net behind the boat.



Students using a Seine Net in the lake to catch aquatic life.

Water Ecology



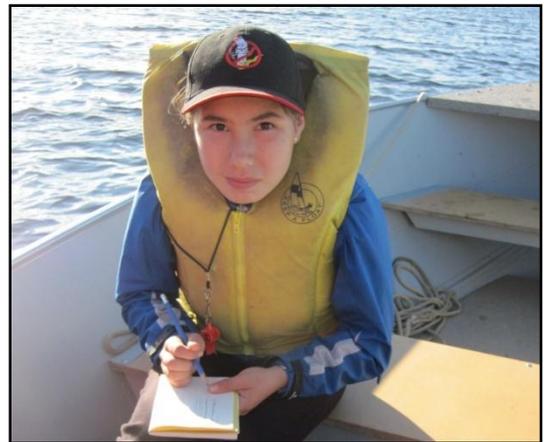
A student looking at a freshwater mussel that the group caught.



Students using a water thermometer to measure the temperature of the lake at different levels.



A student using a Secchi Disc to measure water clarity.



A student keeping notes on water ecology results.



Students learning about the zooplankton they caught earlier.



Some of the fish and benthic insects caught with the Seine Net.

Fish sampling and common parasites

Mike taught the students how to dissect fish and look for common fish parasites. Mike talked about fisheries work that he did at Ekali Lake a few years ago. Otoliths, measurements and organs were taken from the fish caught.



Mike explaining how fish are utilized and how they live in their ecosystem.



Mike took out the otolith from the fish, it is used for aging the fish.



Mike showing the students common parasites found in fish.



Traditional Knowledge

Traditional knowledge was taught by Elders Ernest Hardisty, Sarah Hardisty and Marylouise Sanguez. Angus showed the students how to set a fish net, which was checked daily and Rufus taught them how to set rabbit snares. The elders told stories about the area and shared some of the history with the students during the evening's. The students found it quite interesting and participated every step of the way.



Students showing their rabbit snare before setting it on a trail.



Students learned how to put spruce boughs in their tent for flooring and how to dry the inside of their tent out.



Rufus took the students out to set rabbit snares.



Elder Sarah Hardisty collecting tobacco offerings to feed the fire.

Water, Boat, Canoe Safety

Mike and Angus taught the students water and boat safety. All activities were taught in the classroom and practiced on dry land. The students had plenty of boating to practice safe boating techniques while conducting water ecology experiments and checking the fish net. All boating trips were supervised for the duration of the camp. Canoe safety wasn't taught this year due to windy conditions.



Mike reviewing his boat survival kit with the students.



Students took turns driving after learning how to safely do so.



Students learning how to drive the boat.



Angus and Mike taking the students out to check the fish net.

Water, Boat, Canoe Safety

All students had to wear life jackets during trips on the lake and they had to be supervised while doing water ecology activities on the lake. Each student was fitted with a lifejacket according to their weight and size. Bruce reviewed the small vessel operators handbook and all students obtained a Pleasure Craft Operator Card. All students and some adults took part in the exercise, which provided them with invaluable experience.



Rufus and Ernest took the Pleasure Craft Operator Course.



Due to the size of the boat students took turns doing water ecology and boating.



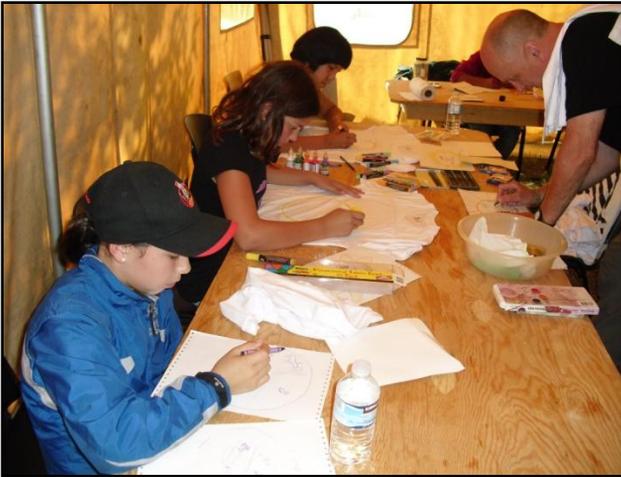
Students and adults getting ready for the test.



Students reviewing for the test.

AAROM T-shirt designing

The students were given an opportunity to show their artistic talents. They designed their own T-shirt logo and painted them on T-shirts. Everyone enthusiastically participated and some interesting designs were made.



Students sorted out their drawings on paper before painting them on the T-shirts.



Students drawing their logos.



One of the T-shirt logos a student designed.



A student painting her logo.

Recreational Activities

During their spare time students spent time swimming, fishing, and socializing. They were supervised during swimming and other water activities. Evening activities included elder story telling, card games, and snacks. There was visitors that regularly came during the camp to visit. The students thoroughly enjoyed their free time and got to know each other quite well.



Students taking a break from swimming.



Students playing a game of cats cradle.



The students made an Inukshuk while they were at Jean Marie River.



Elder Sarah Hardisty visiting with Marylouise Sanguez.

JMR Community Feast

This year the community feast was held at the Jean Marie River Gymnasium. A lot of people came out to enjoy the food and to hear about the camp. Students were given a camp certificate and souvenir bag from Dehcho First Nations and ENR provided ecology camp t-shirts. The elders, supervisors and facilitators played an key role in the ecology camp's success as did the group of students from throughout the Dehcho. All students wholeheartedly participated in and became involved with all of the different experiences provided to them during the camp. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the 2010 camp and made friendships that will last a lifetime.



The feast was well attended.



A student getting her camp certificate.



Allan and Bruce giving a speech.



Students looking through their souvenir bags.



During the last regional wildlife workshop held in October 2008, there was consensus that the youth ecology camp should continue to be held at different locations throughout the Dehcho Region. The 2003 and 2004 camps had been held at the Trout Lake Fire Base. By holding the camp in different locations this would allow different communities the opportunity of hosting and conducting the youth ecology camp as well as providing the chance for participants to experience different areas of the Dehcho. A joint DFN/ENR committee reviews the proposals and awards the camp. The 2005 camp was held near Jean Marie River and hosted by Land is Life. The 2006 camp was held near Hay River Reserve and was hosted by the Katlodeeche First Nation. The 2007 and 2009 camps were held at Cli Lake west of Fort Simpson and were hosted by North Nahanni Naturalist Lodge Ltd. The 2008 camp was held at Paradise creek near Trout Lake and was hosted by the Samba K'e Development Corporation. This year's camp was held at Ekali Lake. We would like to thank AAROM for providing additional funding and expertise for the camp this year, without their help we would have been unable to hold a camp this year.

Previous camps taught a variety of traditional and scientific skills. This year's camp had a great mixture of both. Students learned a lot of new tools which should help them in future endeavours. Once again we appreciate all the work the instructors and elders did this year to ensure a most memorable experience for all those who attended.