



March has arrived. The crows are flocking and I saw a lone Canada goose flying north this morning just as the sun rose over Lake Superior, a sure sign of spring.

The taps are in the maple trees with hopes of rich jugs of maple syrup for the coming year. HOCP is on the move as well with a Tourism and Recreation Summit this Thursday and a Science Symposium on Friday in International Falls. We are also beginning the marketing of the new Travel the Heart/National Geographic website.

Join us on this adventure of working together to sustain and celebrate the lakes, forests and communities of our region.

Frank Jewell
Chair—Heart of the Continent Partnership



Recap of Meeting in Lutsen MN – Caribou Highlands Resort: A welcome from Linda Kratt of “**Visit Cook County**” and a history of their tourism campaign that continued with a fabulous video/slide presentation entertaining.



John Cameron and Mary Somnis brought the group up to date on the Phase II marketing campaign to promote and bring Heart of the Continent Geotourism to the world. **Shaun Hamilton from Trust for Public**



Trevor Gibb – Quetico Superintendent and Bob Lessard – MNDNR rolling out their pizza North House Folk School

Lands gave us a brief history of the **North House Folk School** where we all ended up for a beautiful evening and wood fire pizza. We were happy to have **Brenda Halter SNF** visit with us at North House and present. She kept a captivated audience on the land exchange program in effect within North eastern Minnesota including the BWCAW. At the time of the meetings in Lutsen the

science team was still in it’s infancy—Chris Stromberg brought the group up to speed on the work the **Pooja Kanwar—USFS and Steve Windel—NPS** are working on. A number of conference calls with a core team and the science partnership are well on their way planning a **science symposium for March 10—11—Rainy River Community College—International Falls**. The science team was an important arm of the Heart of the Continent in the past and we are on a good path to reviving it to give a venue for public lands people, biologists, scientists, universities etc, a place to sit down together, share information and possibly work on joint projects that will benefit the border lakes region.

Tom Rider from Lutsen Mountain Ski Resort talked with us on Friday. Much of his talk was concerning the challenges facing ski resorts, how Lutsen has survived, how they are working with the Forest Service and the MPCA to protect the water in the Poplar River. The resort partnered with the town and fire department to continue to provide and protect the water and continue to offer a great downhill skiing experience here in the Heart of the Continent

“Heart of the Continent Partnership is actually doing what more of us need to do: engaging community leaders, conservation groups and agencies to all come to the table, find our common dreams, and work together for the benefit of both people and wild nature.”

Vance G. Martin, President, The WILD Foundation, 2014

Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Summit

A Landscape Scale Sustainability Dialogue

Share ideas and expand recreation and tourism partnerships. Identify ways to work together across boundaries to provide sustainable recreation and tourism now and into the future.

Thursday, March 10 12:30 – 3:30
Voyageurs National Park, Conference room
360 Highway 11 E, International Falls
(218) 283-6600 (bring your brown bag lunch)

Demonstrations on use of Heart of the Continent Geotourism web-site

Round table discussions on strengthening Recreation and Tourism in the Heart of the Continent



Please join us for
1st Heart of the Continent Science Symposium
March 10-11, 2016
Rainy River Community College

International Falls, MN

Thursday, March 10, 6-8pm: Welcome Social and poster session
Friday, March 11, 8a-4p: Plenary Session, Oral Presentations, Discussion Forum
Plenary Speaker: Dr. Erik Beever, USGS Rocky Mountain Research Station
“Understanding How Ecological Disturbance Influences Biological Diversity in Protected Areas: The Rules Aren’t What They Used To Be”

Registration is \$20 (US). Lunch is provided. Registration open during the event
www.heartofthecontinent.org/heart-of-the-continent-science-symposium/



Add our thumbnail link picture to your website. Be part of the branding of the Heart of the Continent/National Geographic geotourism area.

Contact e-address below if you would like this sent to you.

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