

BSA Northern Tier Troop 264, Brookeville-Olney, MD

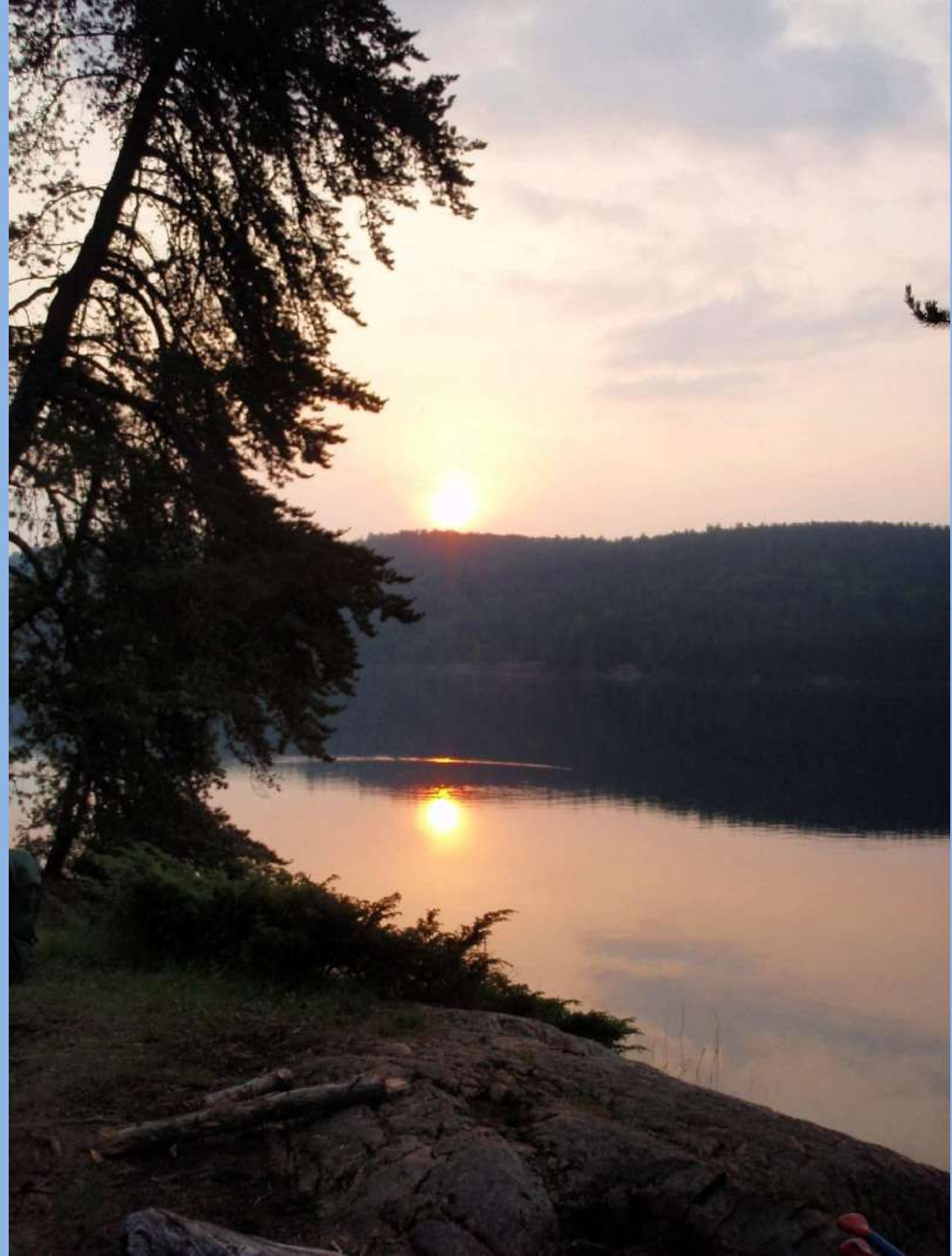
E062811A Crew "A"

June 27 to July 6, 2011

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July 1
Canada Day

Day 4



Sunrise



Breakfast









105 rod portage westward



Beavers!





Approaching a portage

At the far end of the
portage





Short portage



Small lake to...

Another portage!





Irene Lake

Part of 50 rod
portage north out
of Irene Lake



Tim, carrying a canoe, dropped into this chest deep hole. One instant, the canoe was six feet in the air, the next, it was 18 inches off the ground. "QUETICO!!!", he shouted. Two of us with packs had just skirted the hole by inches.



A few feet away, Jim stands on “trampoline grass”, a thick floating mat of grasses and plants at the water’s edge. Stand on it for more than a minute and the mat and your feet slowly start to sink into the water. We launched the canoes from the water’s edge of the trampoline grass.





Pitcher plants, a carnivorous plant that eats bugs





Jim's feet sinking into the trampoline grass and water







More trampoline grass, at the portage out of the small lake to Tuck River





There's a portage trail
here somewhere!



Willy knows how to paddle!





Tuck River



Looking for a portage











Obstacles are common on Quetico portages





























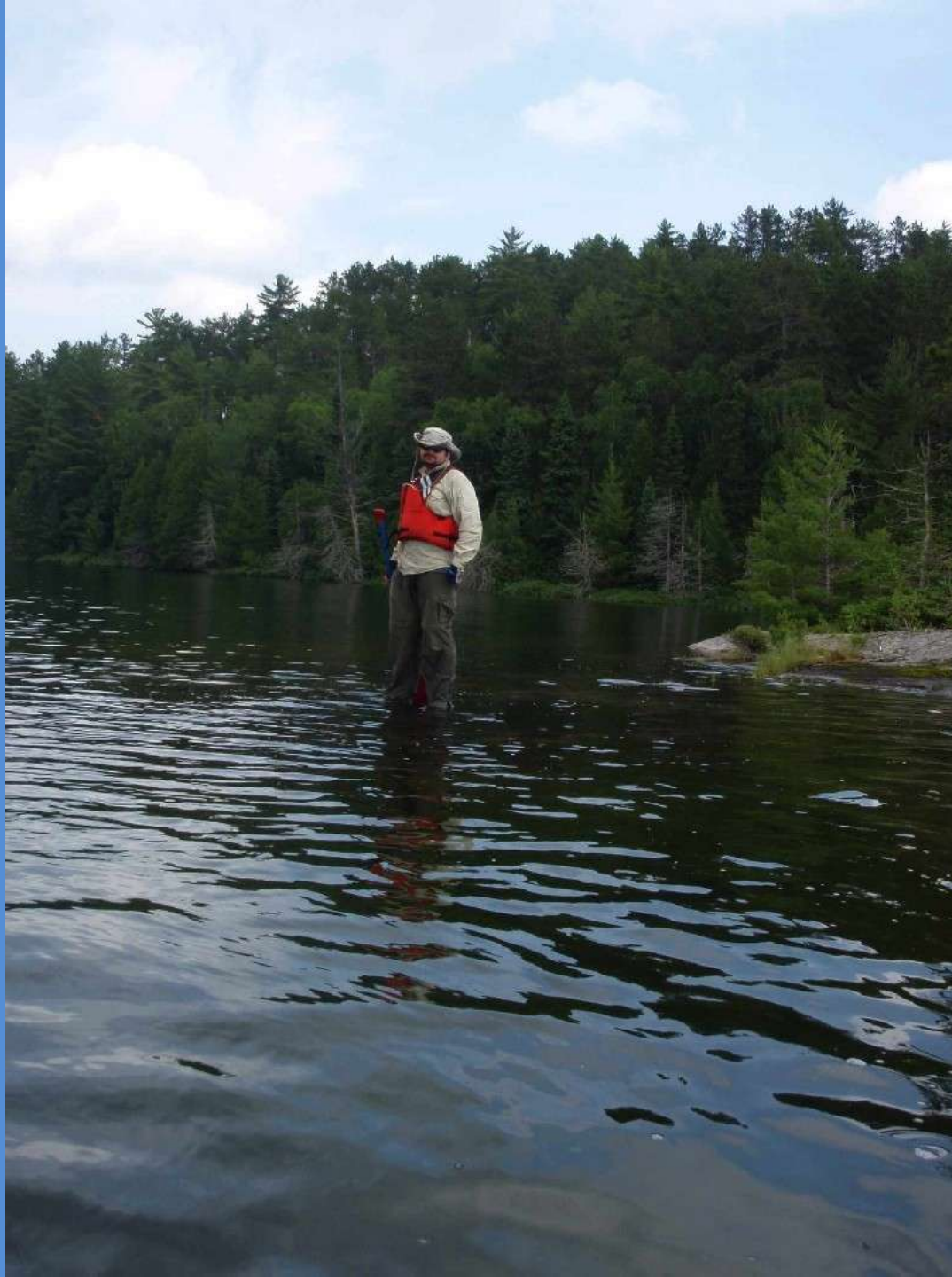






Walking on the water







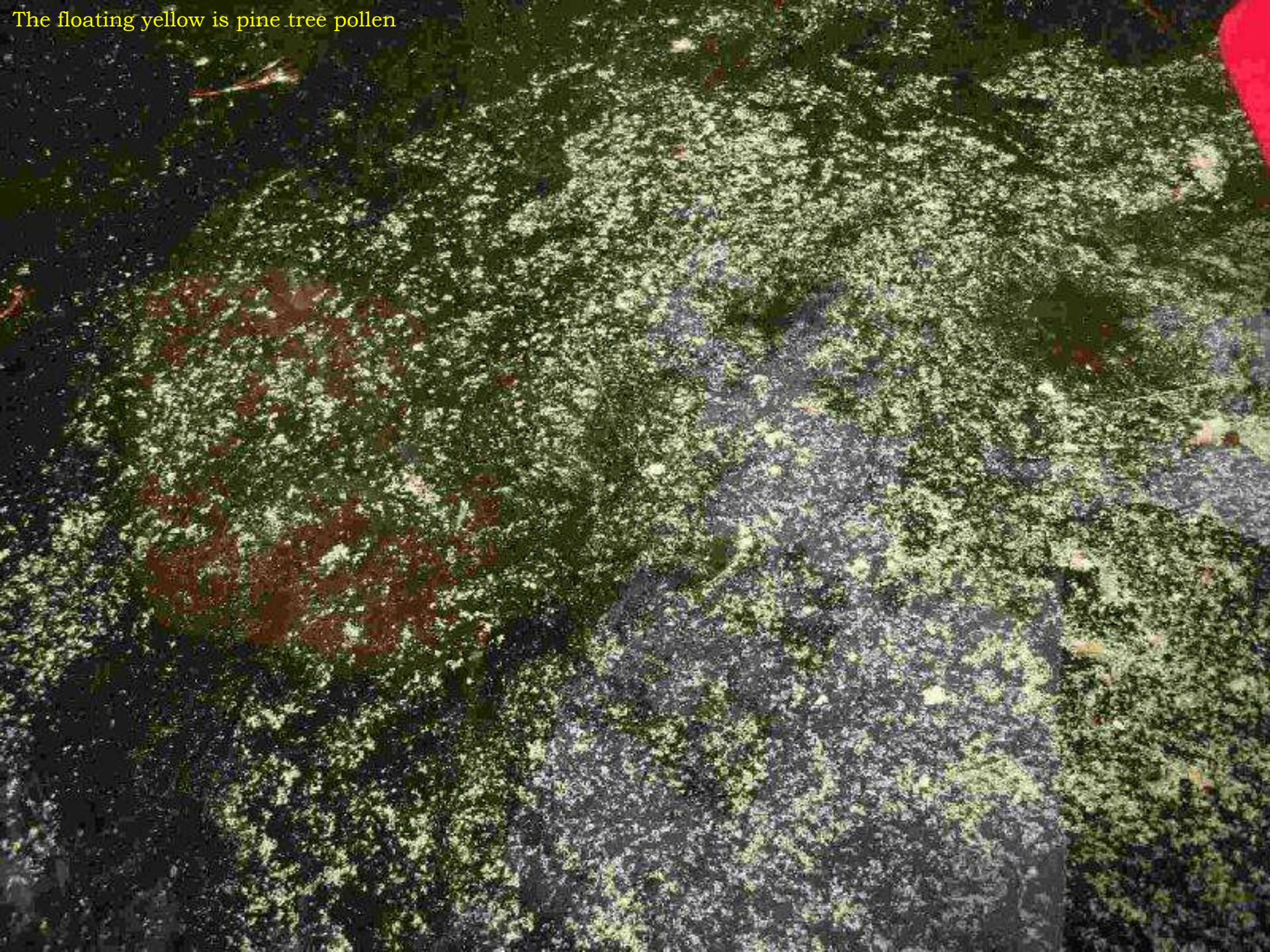




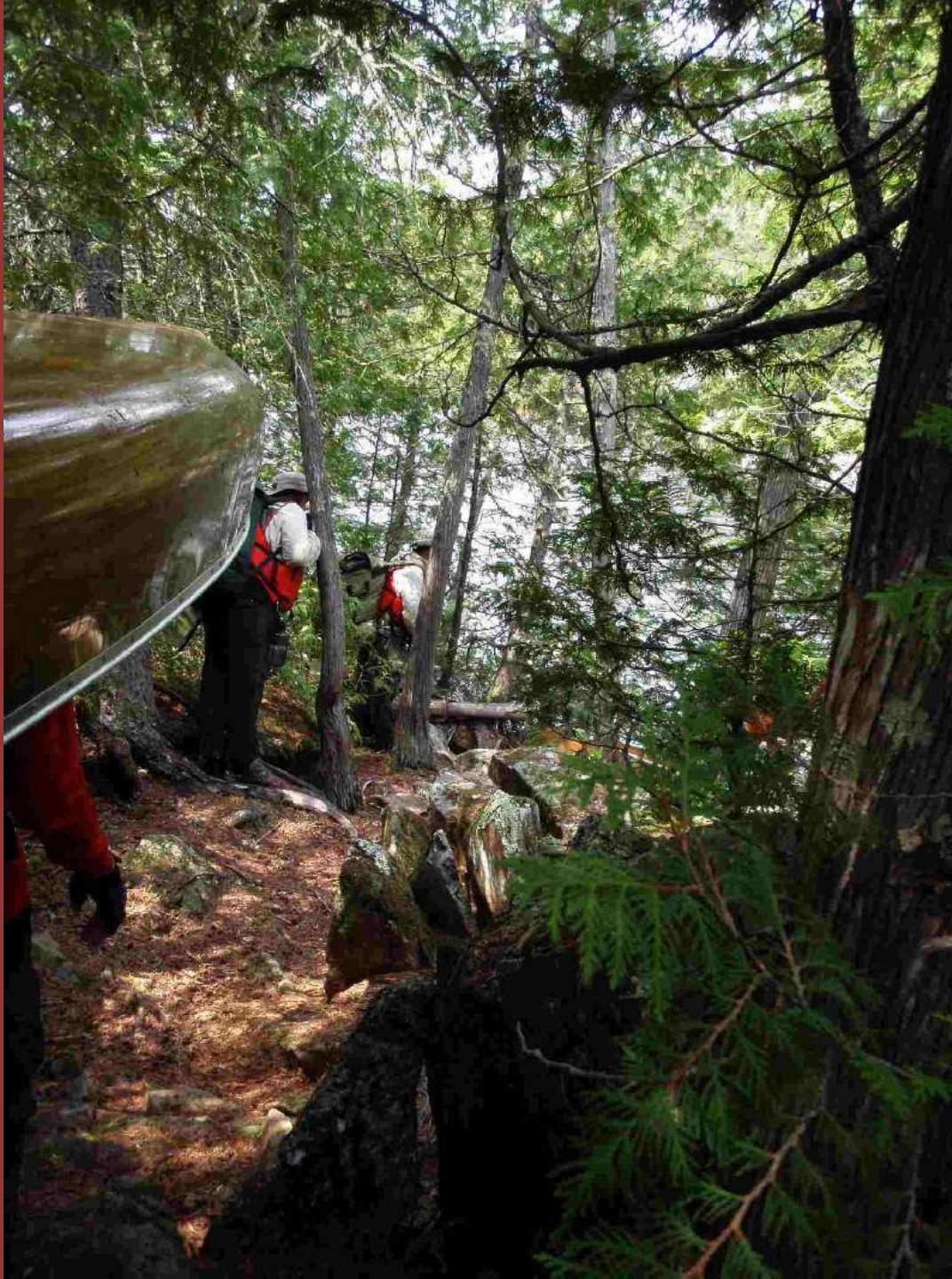




The floating yellow is pine tree pollen



Portage,
Sarah Lake to
McIntyre Lake







McIntyre Lake



Sunlight shines through

Short portage, McIntyre Lake to Brent Lake







On this portage, Joe (carrying a pack) tripped and fell, and reported hurting his knee and arm. Not until we were well on the water did we learn that Joe had also banged his head, when Joe developed a fierce headache and began vomiting, and became irritable and dizzy and unable to stand. First Joe himself, and later Tim, Dale, and Gary, concluded that Joe had probably suffered a concussion.

No radio signal at the first island we stopped at, so we continued a quick half mile to an old forest fire site where there was reception to Northern Tier base.

After Tim relayed the info, Northern Tier called for a float plane to be sent out for the injured Joe. Not only was there difficulty finding a plane and pilot on a Canadian national holiday, but emergency services had to be arranged at Ely, and Customs and Immigration consulted about the flight.

Within an hour the plane was on its way. In the meantime, we (especially Tim) kept Joe awake and talking, while scouts constructed a cover to keep the sun off Joe, who was propped up against a log with a PFD behind him for padding. All the gear was piled on one canoe to leave two serviceable.



Brent Lake



Emergency shelter for the injured Joe on east end of Brent Lake



Watching for the plane. Conor stayed here atop the hill with the radio to relay any messages from base.



Tim stationed two canoes offshore as a signal to the pilot. Because of the wind, those in the canoes had to keep constantly paddling to stay in place.









Two canoes ferry Joe and his dad Gary to the float plane





And the plane delivers them to Ely for evaluation at the hospital there





The remaining 7 of us continue on toward a campsite, it now being late afternoon





Campsite on Brent Lake







Day 5 -- Morning of July 2, 2011



Brent Lake



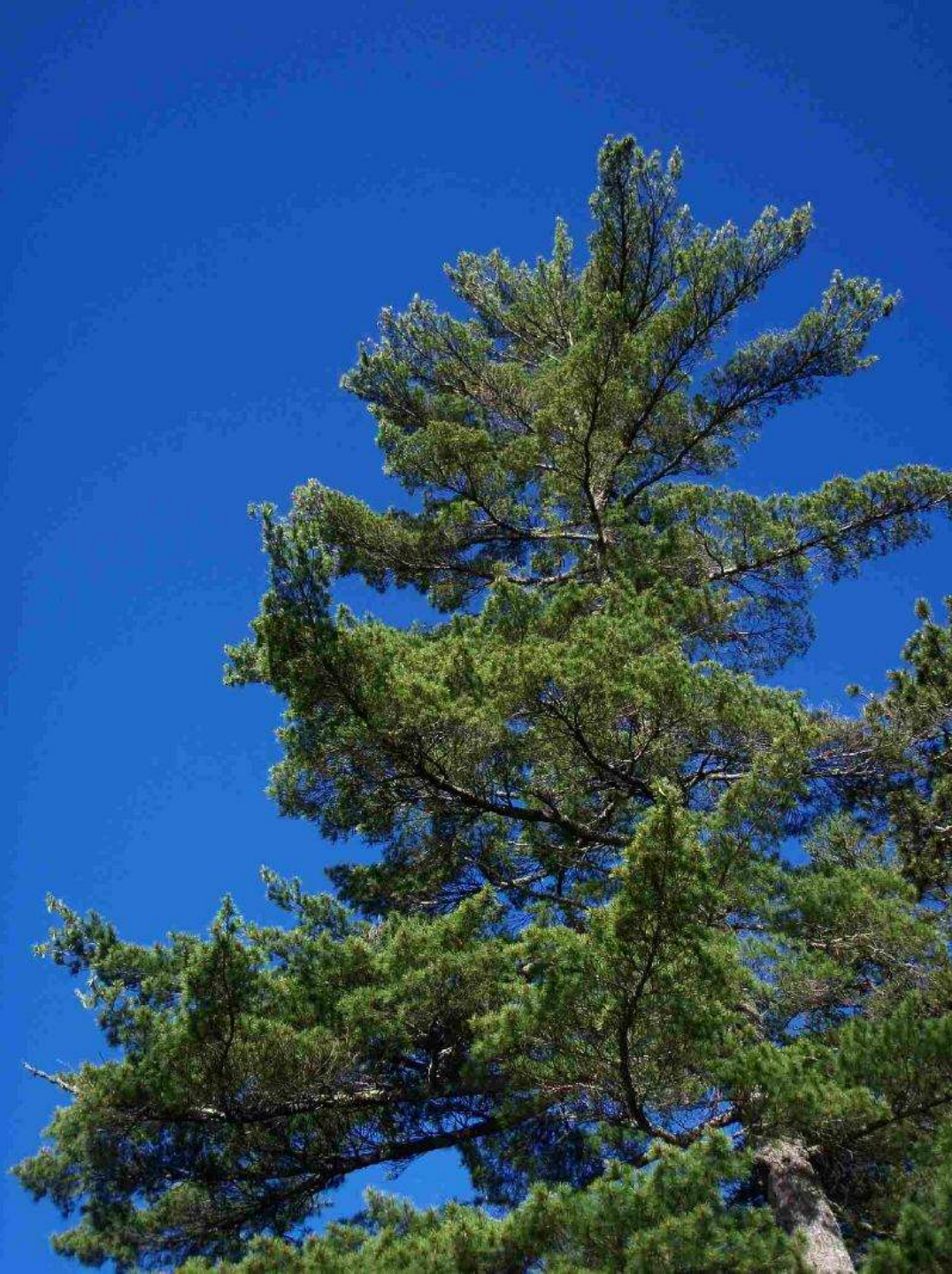














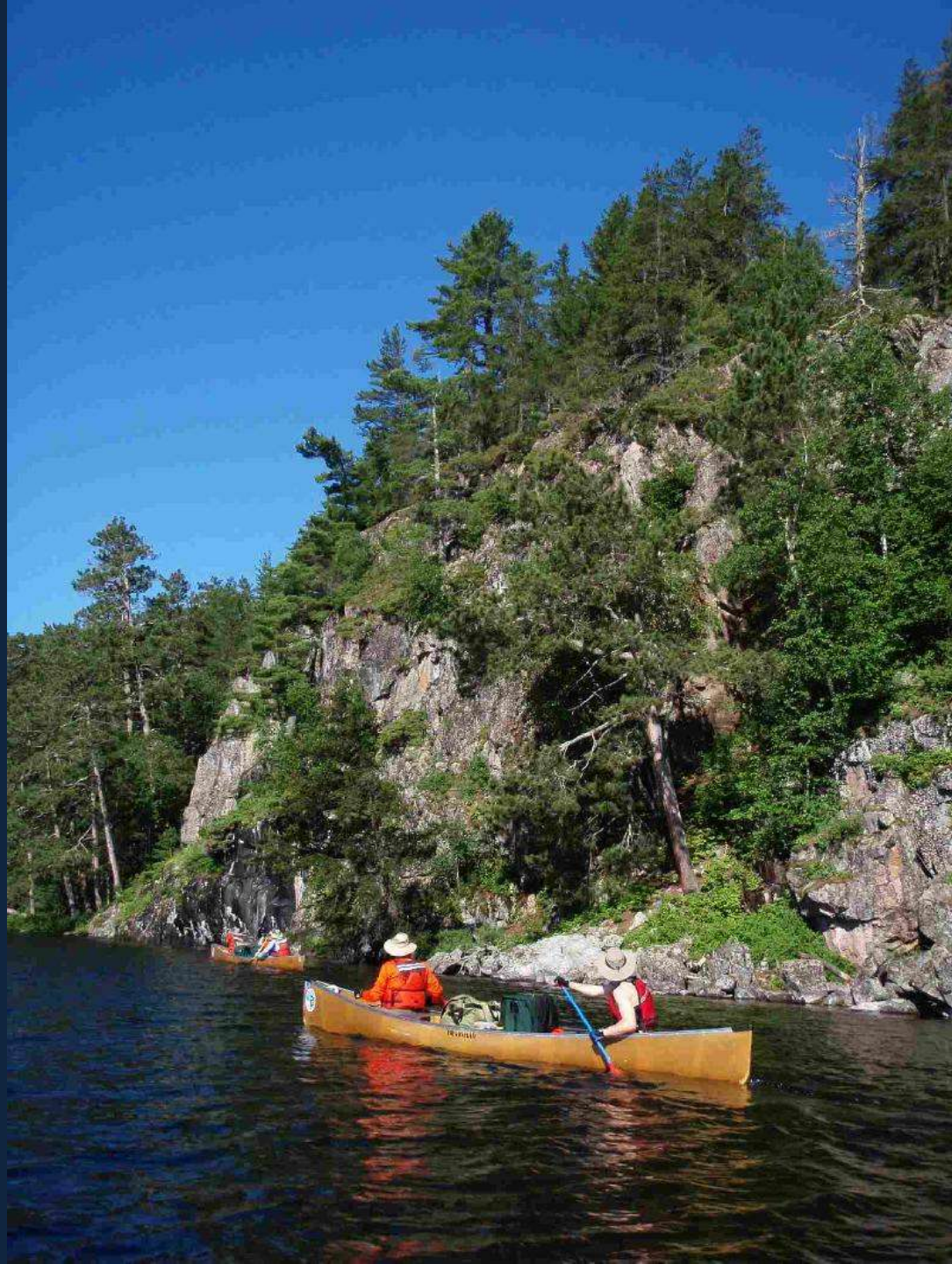






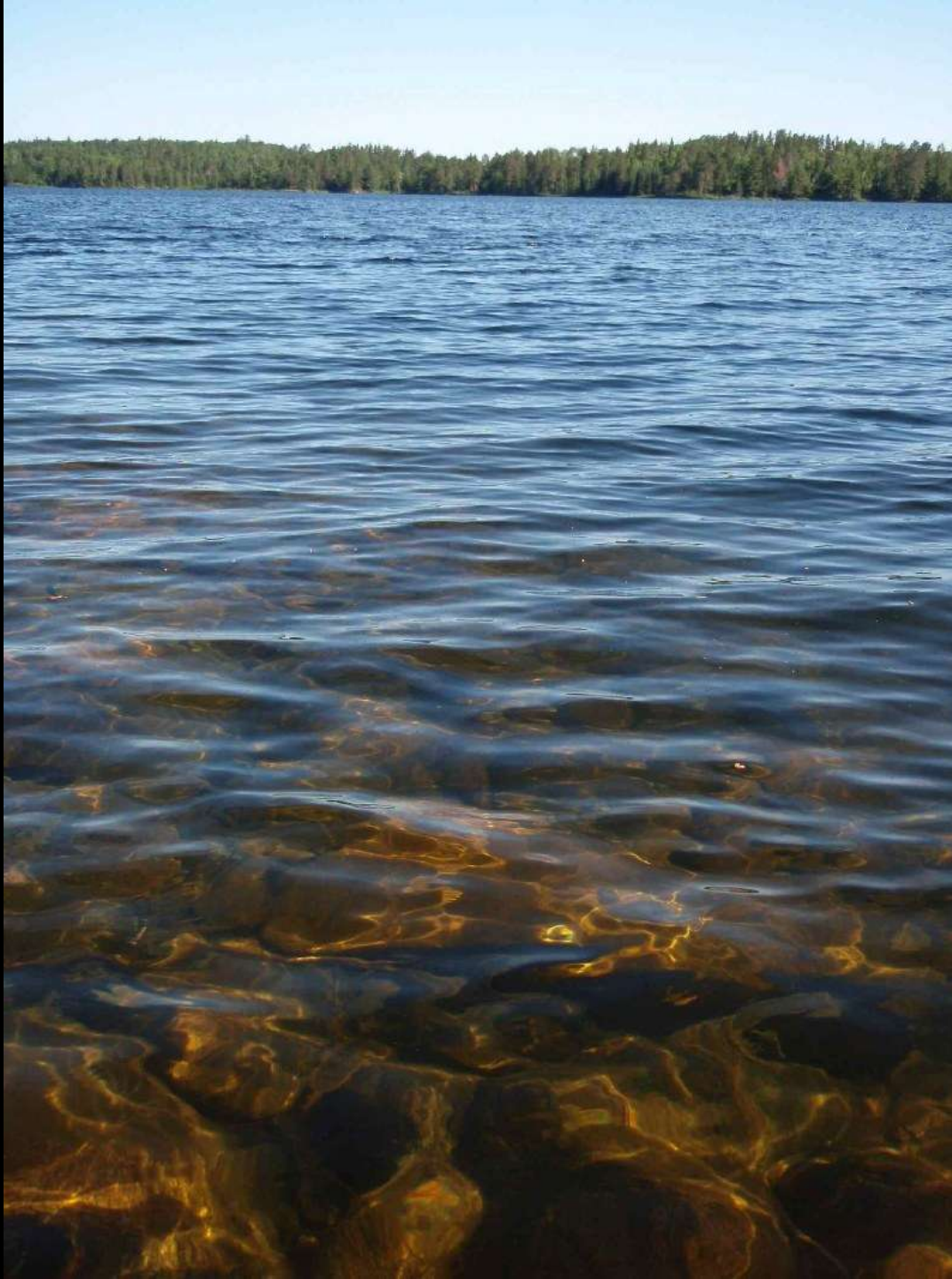








Rocks in the clear
shallow water, near
the 18 rod portage
into Darky River







A person standing on the shore, wearing a red shirt and dark pants, carrying a large green backpack.

A person sitting in a yellow canoe, wearing a hat and a red life vest, holding a blue paddle.

A person sitting in a yellow canoe, wearing a white hat and an orange jacket, holding a blue paddle.

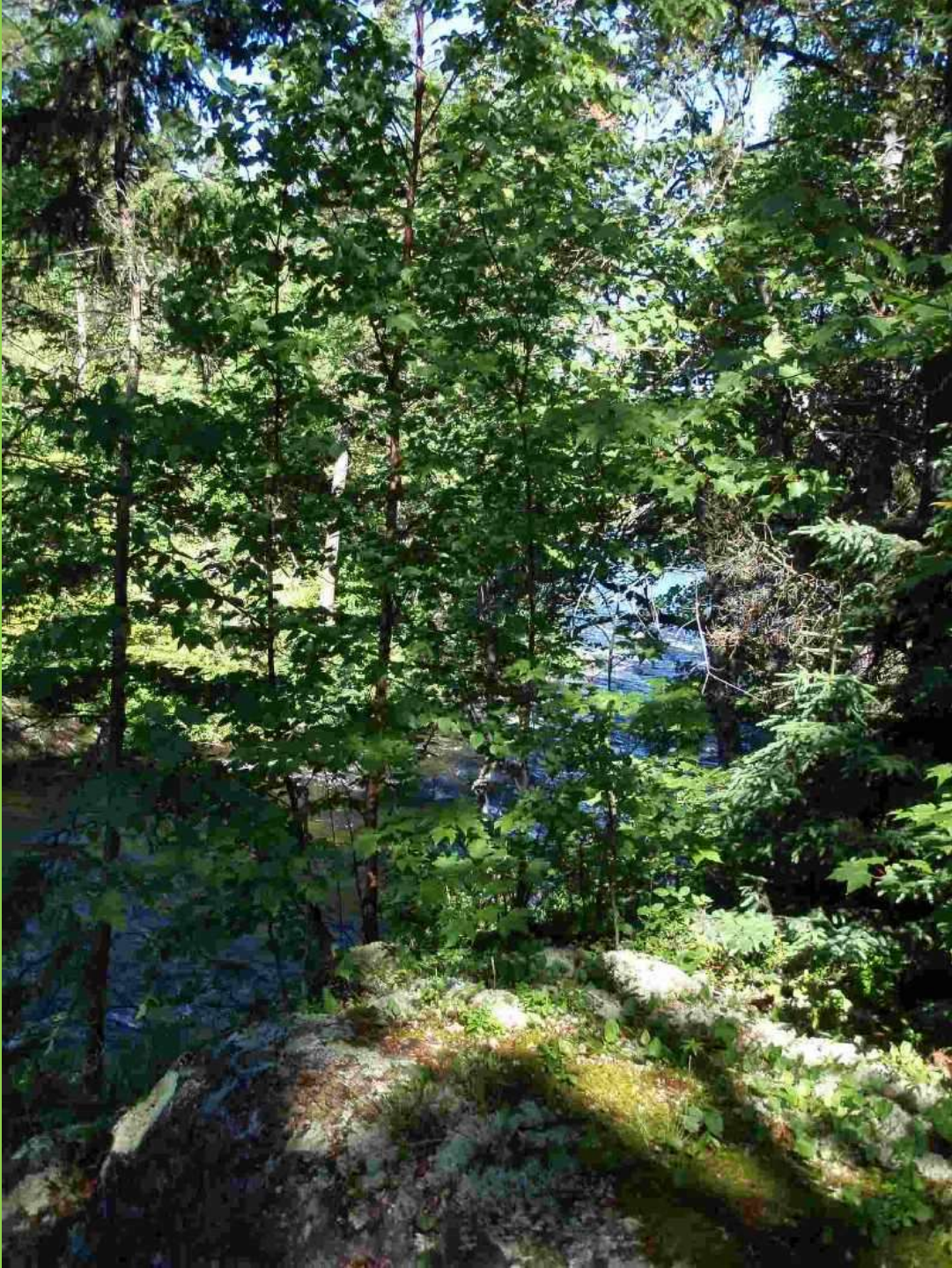
Three yellow canoes are on the water. The canoes have blue circular logos on the side. The canoes are yellow and have blue and white trim.

The shore is covered in green grass and some rocks. There are some green plants in the foreground.

Jim "Santa Clausing" – carrying 80 lb. pack AND a canoe – we now had to carry Joe's and Gary's shar and gear for the remainder of the trip.



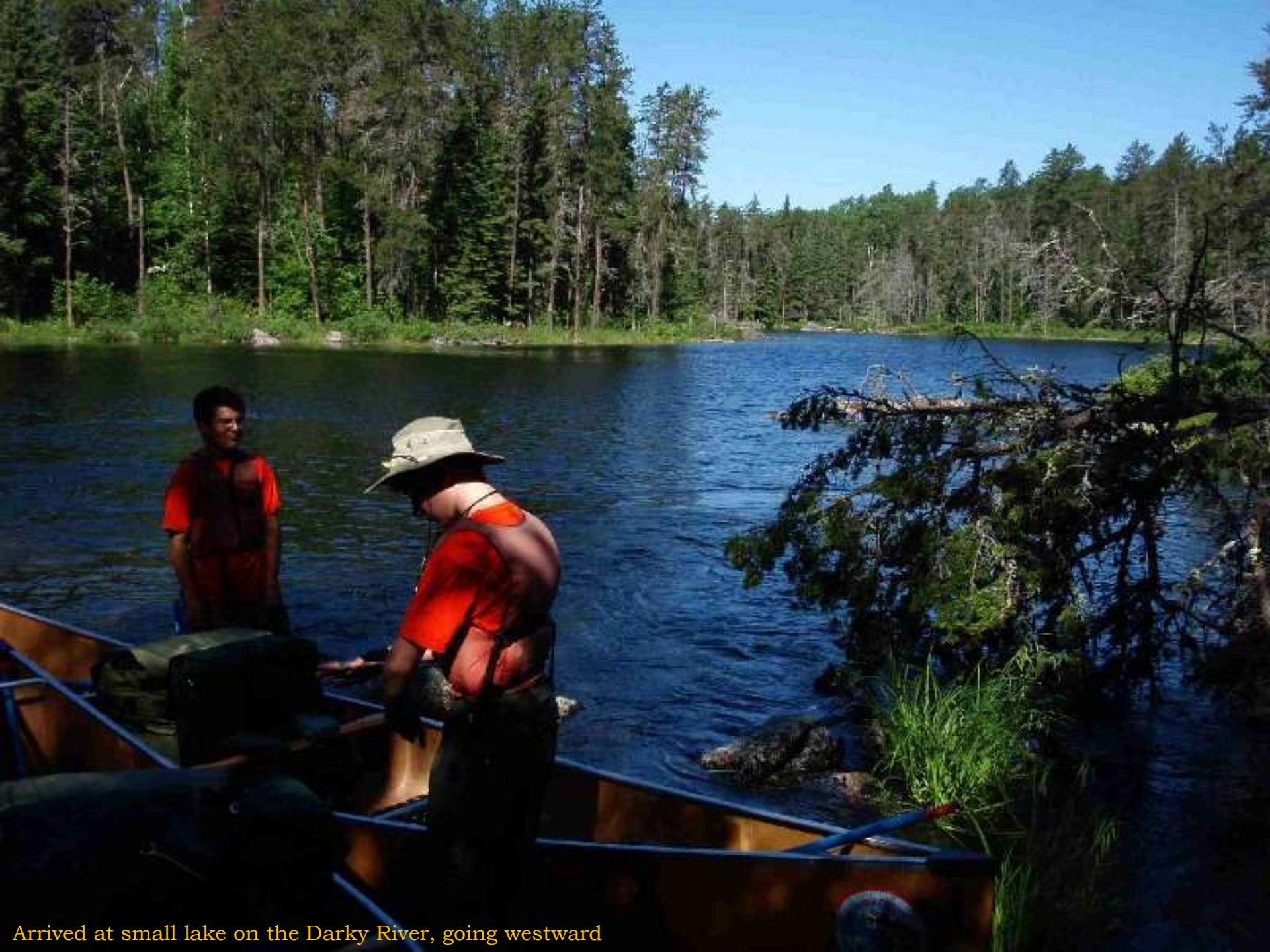




One of the relatively few places where we could see what we were portaging around







Arrived at small lake on the Darky River, going westward













Another Quetico
portage trail





As we completed this longer portage on the Darky River, another crew started catching up behind us. So we hurried on to the next short portage...















Short quick portage into Dark Water Lake







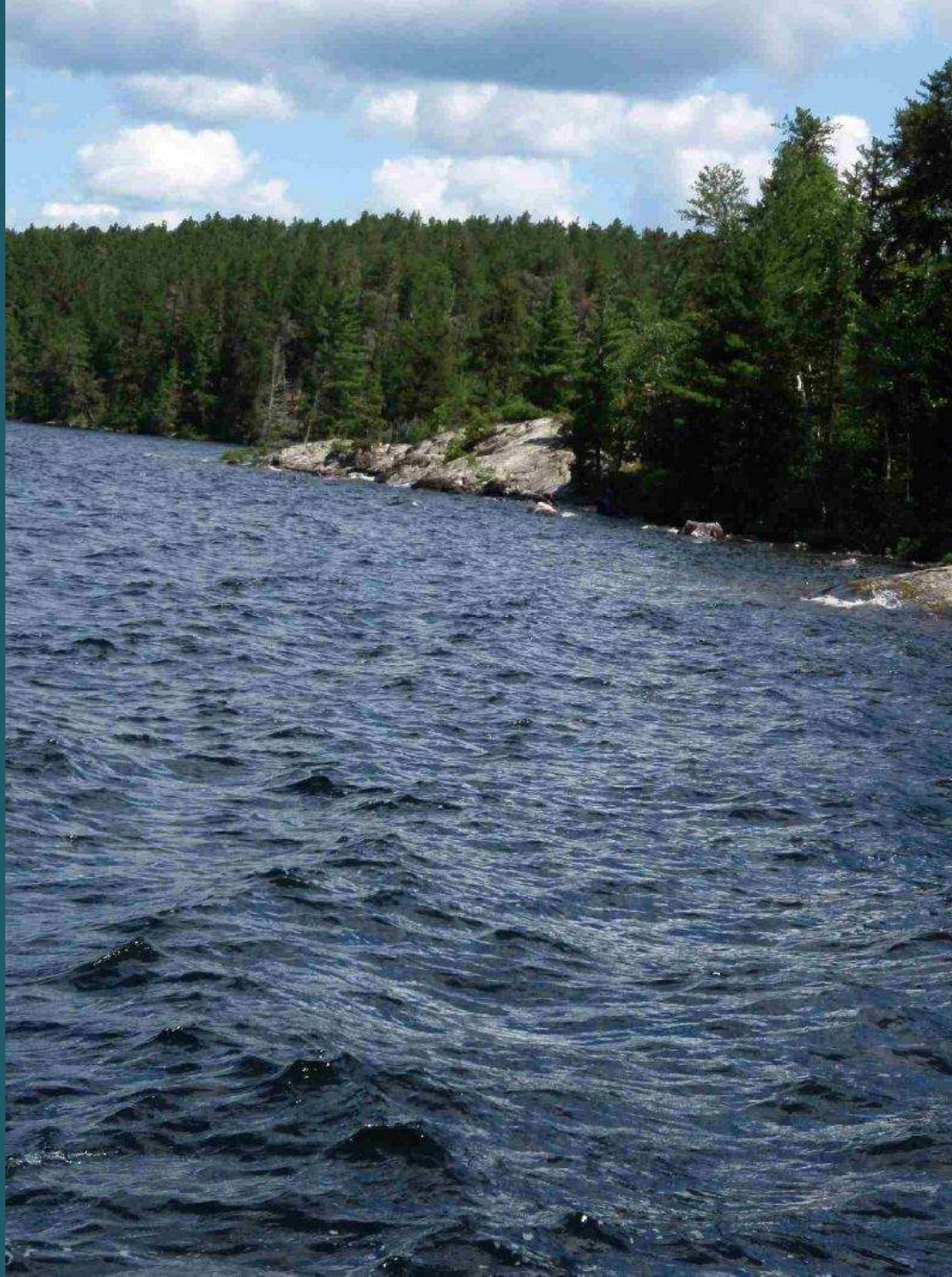
Eastern arm of Dark Water Lake. Here the wind started to increase right at us...



until small whitecaps began to form on the waves. Here two canoes stopped at the point on the left, but...

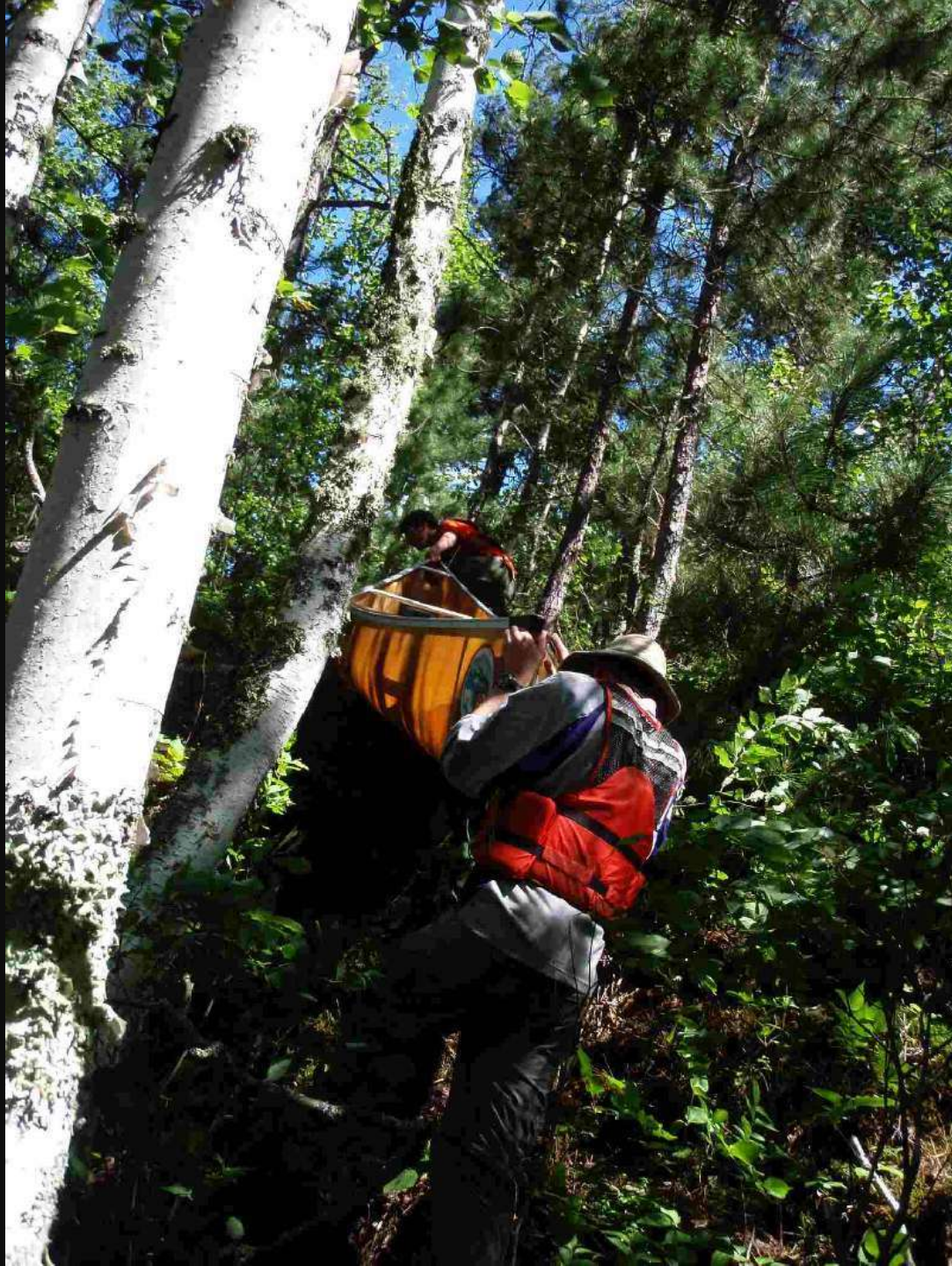
Jim and Dale rounded the point and ended up at a campsite on the next point a short distance away, that being the safest place to pull in as the waves and wind continued to increase.

[Looking back to the first point, behind which two canoes were stopped.]



Tim bushwacked his way over to Jim and Dale, and thought we might portage the canoe through the brush to rejoin the others. That task proved to be too difficult after only 100 yards.





In the end, we temporarily left the canoe at the second site and walked back to the first point for lunch and a rest while we waited for the winds to subside.



Moss-covered rock, in between the two points





Looking back to second point



Anthony
of the
North



Lunchtime and naptime at first point, wind still strong









Steady wind
strengthens





Panoramic view of the point

← From Darky River

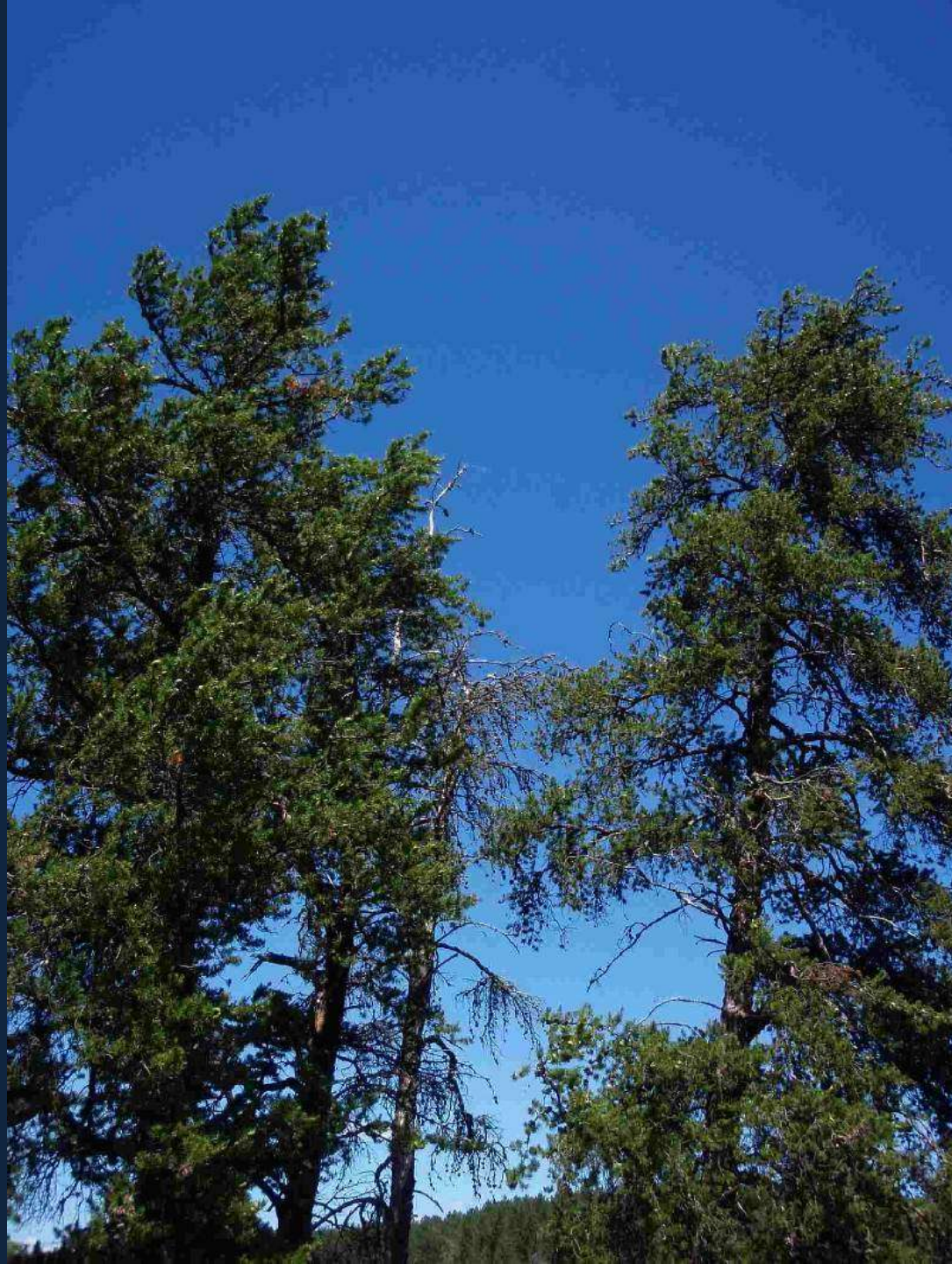


← To second point and campsite



First point,
looking toward
the second
point and
campsite







About 3 PM, Tim thought we might set out although the wind still blew toward us...



But the waves splashed water over the side of the canoe Tim, Willy, and Conor were in. So we decided to spend the night at the nice campsite on the second point and start out early the next morning.

















Sunset

To Part 3 – Days 6 and 7, July 3 and 4, 2011