

FALL 2005

NEWSLETTER of the MASSAWEPIE STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Providing Spirit, Service and Support

Founded 2000



MSAA

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Fall 2005 Picnic & Clambake by David Lippitt

It's that time again!! On Saturday, September 24, 2005, the Staff Alumni Association will hold its sixth annual Fall Family Picnic & Clambake at the Shady Rest pavilion in Powder Mills Park. Spouses (one per member) and children are specifically invited. Last year about 35 people enjoyed a great time of fellowship and superb food. This year's event will start at 2:00 p.m. and last until they send us home. Because you asked for it, the menu is the same (clams, chicken, corn-on-the-cob and salt potatoes, with hot dogs for the kids). Please bring your own beverage, and a munchie or dessert to pass. Please also bring your camp pictures and memories. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. A reservation form is enclosed. Please return it to our mailing address by *no later than Friday, September 16*. We hope to see you there.

BarkEater Program Has Very Strong Start

by Brad VanAuken, Chair

With the 2005 summer camping season over, close to 2,300 youth and adults have been inducted into the BarkEater program during its inaugural year. As part of the first year program, people got to know the camp by walking around Massawepie Lake. They learned about two of Massawepie's most interesting birds – the loon and the osprey. They also learned about the origin of the word BarkEater and they provided service to the camp. However, what most of the boys will remember most about the program is the Friday night ceremony, especially its unexpected pyrotechnics. And they now have their first year recognition to remind them of the program. According to the trading post manager (George Varga), sales of BarkEater accessories and memorabilia were heavy each Saturday morning following the previous night's BarkEater induction ceremony.

This year, the tale/tail began. Next year, it will continue. If you are interested in helping the BarkEater program committee develop year two of the program (including the second year ceremony), please contact me at [bvauken@brandcoolmarketing.com](mailto:bvanauken@brandcoolmarketing.com). Our program development committee is comprised of a nice group of people. We have a lot of fun while dreaming up the various elements of the BarkEater program.

The BarkEater program was designed to enrich the summer

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Annual Staff Appreciation Barbecue by David Lippitt

On a beautiful Saturday (July 30) at Massawepie, members of the Alumni Association hosted the second annual beach barbecue luau for Massawepie summer staff. Approximately 55 staff members enjoyed pulled pork, grilled chicken, corn on the cob, salt potatoes, root beer (floats) and ice cream sundaes courtesy of the Alumni Association. Each staff member who attended was given a commemorative token and a lei in the spirit of the event. After cleaning up the Alumni Association members celebrated the success of the event at the Thirsty Moose (formally known as Dumas' Restaurant). Special thanks to the following Alumni Association members who helped out at the event: President Brad VanAuken, Treasurer Mike Knittel, Secretary Pete Collinge, Committee members Dave Lippitt and Stephanie VonBacho, members Rich Bishopp and Erin Burrito, and our hard working advisor, Don DeClerck. Also thanks to George Varga for his great notes from last year and to Mark Pulvino for cooking up the tasty pulled pork and rustling up the corn and salt potatoes.

2005 Annual Meeting and Elections

by Peter Collinge, Secretary

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's 2005 Annual Meeting was held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie on Saturday, June 5, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle. Outgoing Chair Mark Pulvino presided over his last meeting as Chair.

The following officers and other Executive Committee members were elected: Brad VanAuken, Chair; Jeremy Cooney, Vice Chair; Mike Knittel, Treasurer; Peter Collinge, Secretary (also Webmaster); George Varga, Member at Large (also Newsletter Editor); Gary Hicks, Member at Large; David Lippitt, Member at Large (also Council VP for Camping); and Stephanie VonBacho, Member at Large. Mark Pulvino will serve as Past Chair.

Mark summarized our last year of activities, including continued financial support (the Meyering Rifle Range, the Massawepie Endowment), service (the first Staff Beach Barbecue last summer and strong participation at Beaver Weekend), and spirit (the Fall Family Picnic/Clambake and the Winter Rendezvous/Micro-brewery tour). He thanked everyone who has helped during the year and especially at Beaver Weekend. Plans for the 2005 Beach Barbecue on July 30 were discussed, and alumni were requested to attend and help if possible. The long-sleeve version of the latest Alumni T-shirt (maroon and tan) was introduced at the meeting.

Brad VanAuken explained the new BarkEater retention program for camp. After the meeting, the first official BarkEater ceremony was conducted. Volunteers who had attended two work weekends in the spring were eligible, and about 20 were inducted as BarkEaters. A team of alumni and camp staff conducted the ceremony, which was a dress rehearsal for the 2005 BarkEater ceremonies at camp.

Meyering Rifle Range Opened for 2005!

Thanks to a tremendous effort by Massawepie staff alumni and others, the new Ray & Addy Meyering Rifle Range at Camp Pioneer opened to the Scouts on Monday, July 4. The Independence Day date was appropriate, as the new range is much closer to Pioneer and thus gives the Scouts "independence" from seeking rides to the Mountaineer range. The new range has 16 shooting points, doubling the number of Scouts who can participate in the program.

The new range was completed in only 10 working days. Most of the work was done during Skills and Beaver Weekends by staff alumni and other volunteers coordinated by Don DeClerck. The construction capped off a multi-year effort to raise funds and build the range. Donations to the range totaled over \$110,000, including over \$30,000 from the Alumni Association, its members, and other staff alumni contacted by alumni members. The generosity of many donors allowed the project to be completed despite cost overruns caused by hitting bedrock that required blasting during construction.

Ray and Addy Meyering served as 2005 directors for "their" range, and their

2006 Kayak Program

by Peter Collinge, Secretary

How do we keep older Scouts coming back to Massawepie? The new BarkEater program will help, but it's also important to have something new at camp each year. The Massawepie Program Committee developed a multi-year plan for new programs at Massawepie. For 2005, both the Meyering Rifle Range and the BarkEater program were new. Those were large and complicated undertakings, so the plans for 2006 are more modest. Along with the second year BarkEater recognition will be a new recreational kayak program available during open boating.

MSAA members donated \$460 toward the kayak program with this year's membership renewals. That will more than pay for one kayak, and is a good start toward the six to eight kayaks envisioned for the 2006 camping season. Thanks to all those alumni who donated.

grandson Brian Duff was the range assistant. As expected, the range was very popular with Scouts, leaders and staff this summer. A dedication ceremony for the new range is being planned for summer 2006.

New MSAA Shirts and Treasury Report

by Mike Knittel, Treasurer

The new maroon and tan combination crinkle pattern MSAA shirts are now available in both short and long sleeves. The long sleeve shirts were introduced at Beaver Weekend. The short sleeve shirts were finished on the Friday morning before the Staff Appreciation Barbecue.

They will be available at the Fall Family Picnic & Clambake, so be sure to bring some extra cash or your checkbook. The price for short sleeve shirts is \$10 for sizes M to XL, and \$11 for XXL. Long sleeve shirts are \$13 for M to XL and \$14 for XXL.

Remember that the shirts are only available to current paid members. We have a good supply of shirts on hand, but don't wait to purchase since they will go fast. Also since we had to pay for the shirts out of our treasury, we need to build our funds back up to continue to pay for future Association events and donations to Massawepie.

If you cannot make it to the Clambake but would like to purchase a shirt, contact me and we'll do what we need to do to get you one (or both) versions. I can be reached at (585) 889-4484 or via e-mail: mknittel@bergmannpc.com .

At the Annual Meeting held at Massawepie during Beaver Weekend I presented my yearly Treasury Report. We started the year with a total of \$1212.94. We had income mainly from dues, and fees for the Fall Clambake, Winter Rendezvous and the Staff Appreciation Barbecue. Monies slated for the various Massawepie donations passed through our account. Other small donations without a designated purpose remained in our account to help offset expenses and for donations made in the name of the Alumni Association. Expenses that we incurred included the Staff Appreciation Barbecue, Clambake food and pavilion fee, Winter Rendezvous food, mailing costs and web site hosting fee. Our ending balance grew to \$1675.13.

Sorry - Omission from the Spring Issue...

Congratulations to MSAA member Sean Glenney (Camp Medical Director) for receiving his O/A Vigil Honor!

Historical Stuff!

Purchase of Massawepie by the Scouts

by Peter Collinge

How did the Rochester area Boy Scouts end up with a summer camp far away in the Adirondacks? For the answer, let's go back to 1947. At that time, the Otetiana Council (which had been formed in 1943 by a merger of the Rochester Council and the Monroe County portion of the Red Jacket Council) owned two camp properties: Camp Cutler in Webster and Eagle Island in Sodus Bay. Camp Cutler consisted of 6 acres donated by Amy Jenkins (Mrs. Warren) Cutler and 272 acres purchased in 1938, while Eagle Island contained 98 acres and was donated in 1942 by Mrs. Helen Rivas (daughter of the Jell-O Company founder and later donor of \$3.2 million to build Strong Memorial Hospital's "R" Wing). By 1947, it was clear that these camps did not have the capacity to host the growing Scout membership and that expected from the "baby boom." Furthermore, Cutler was seen as a better short-term than long-term camp, with its limited waterfront and its proximity to Rochester.

At the June, 1947, Annual Council Meeting a resolution was adopted to search for a new long-term camp of at least 1000 acres, with adequate waterfront, adventurous terrain, and sufficiently remote location to provide a feeling of having "been off on a trip." During the winter and spring of 1948, a council Long-Range Plan was developed by a committee under Carey Brown (council VP and manager of the Kodak Service Department), after consultation with over 60 unit and district Scouters. The final plan, approved at the 1948 Annual Meeting, repeated the call for a new summer camp.

A flyer was drafted in 1948 saying "Scout Camp Needed" and mentioning as desirable qualities: at least 1000 acres, more unless property adjoins State land, with some hilly land and 4 areas for 200 boys each adjacent to swimming areas; sand and gravel soil desirable; and on or near a good public



Aerial view of Massawepie from 1950

road a maximum 225 miles from Rochester. A letter with similar information was sent on April 12, 1948, to several large Adirondack landowners, including William (sic) Sykes, Emporium Lumber (sic) Company. W. Clyde Sykes replied on April 23 offering Massawepie as a possibility. Fred Wellington wrote to George Shields of Oval Wood Dish Company in Tupper Lake on June 2 asking about Mr. Sykes and Massawepie, saying "it sounds large and expensive but we hate to miss any good bets." George Shields replied that, "I do not think there is any other site that compares to it in the Adirondacks for your purpose."

On July 17-18, 1948, Sumner D. Fay (council Camping Committee) and Fred Wellington drove a group (including W. Stanley Macklen - Camping Chairman and VP of Curtice Burns, Carey Brown - now chairman of the Camp Search Committee, P. Austin Bleyler - Camping Committee and by 1952 Camping Chairman, Harry Feil - Camping Committee, Al Kittelberger - Tomahawk District Commissioner) on a "road trip" to visit various sites. Massawepie was the clear favorite. Other areas visited were: Tract owned by Clayton Winn north of Oneida Lake (500 acres, too small), Piquet Tract (2000 acres near McKeever, lakes too small) and Sun-

day Lake (2000 acres near Stillwater, lakes needed damwork and restoration). Also considered was repurchase and expansion of the former Camp Pioneer on Seneca Lake (now Camp Seneca Lake of the Jewish Community Center).

By October only Sunday Lake, the Seneca Lake site, and Massawepie were being actively considered. Movies of the Massawepie site were shown at the October 21, Executive Board meeting. Soon Fred Wellington had made up his mind, and wrote a four-page letter to William Fay on October 27 enthusiastically supporting a purchase of Massawepie. Scouters began visiting Massawepie. Tomahawk District Commissioner Alfred Kittelberger, representing a group including a number of Scoutmasters that visited Massawepie, reported "The site is ideal."

A November 8 letter from Joseph Bishop, Director of the BSA Engineering Service stated that, "the property would make an admirable camp for up to 1000 boys," and, "The aquatic possibilities are particularly good." He had some concern about the distance from Rochester, and about the deteriorating buildings, which he recommended be razed as soon as possible. Bishop also suggested keeping Camp Cutler for short-term camping, and selling Eagle Island.

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On December 1, the council Camping Committee held a meeting for unit Scouters, to discuss the camp search and the Massawepie site. At the end of the meeting, each unit in attendance completed a questionnaire which asked their opinions about Massawepie, its distance, whether they were receiving a fair opportunity for input, whether it was time for the council to make a decision, and whether their unit would use Massawepie. The tally sheet shows overwhelming unit support for proceeding in an attempt to purchase Massawepie. However, the actual purchase would not be so easy.

Clyde Sykes had mentioned a possible price of \$150,000 for Massawepie, which was then owned by Massawepie Park, Inc., a private corporation entirely owned by the heirs of W. L. Sykes. However, various estimates obtained for Otetiana Council put the value considerably lower. In late December, Sykes obtained a letter from A. Augustus Low, VP of Con. Edison and Adirondack landowner, estimating the Massawepie value at \$150,000 based on the sale of 4000 acres around Big Trout Lake (near Sabattis) in 1925 for \$125,000. The council then decided to obtain an independent appraisal. Meanwhile, in February Carey Brown wrote Roy Sykes to indicate that the Scouts would be continuing to use their existing camps for 1949. Also, Fred Wellington received a March letter from Wes Klusman, national BSA Director of Camping and Special Events, questioning whether the distance from Rochester would make the transportation costs prohibitive for many boys. There was also some hesitation from former Otetiana Council officers who had second thoughts after the sale of Camp Pioneer on Seneca Lake and were concerned about making an even more costly mistake.

On April 12, John MacDonald of Utica submitted an appraisal of \$65,200 for the Massawepie property (\$45,00 for buildings, \$11,200 for land, and \$9000 for soft timber on shores). Perhaps due to the wide difference in estimates of Massawepie's value, by late April the Scouts were investigating other Adirondack properties including Nick's Lake near Old Forge and Bear Pond near Sabattis. But by July, Fred Wellington was taking an influential group to Massawepie: George Todd (former council president, and president of Todd Company), Howard Cumming (also a former

council president and president of Curtrice Canning), Joseph Hockenos (council Finance Chairman and VP of Lincoln-Rochester Trust Co.), and Marvin Forster (of Forster Services, Inc. and a District Chairman). George Todd came away enthused about Massawepie and unconcerned about the distance, if the property could be purchased at a reasonable price.

Marv Forster wrote an insightful letter praising the property despite the distance as offering "outlet for the spirit of adventure". He also suggested gradually developing the different camps while using the existing buildings temporarily (which is exactly what was eventually done), setting aside the Catamount pond area for staff and families (also done), and keeping one hotel building as a museum of the earlier era (unfortunately not done).

On August 10, 1949 the Otetiana Council Executive Board voted to offer \$65,000 for Massawepie, with \$10,000 down and the rest payable over five years. This offer was conveyed to Clyde and Roy Sykes on August 11. In September, George W. Sykes wrote to Fred Wellington to emphasize the uniqueness and value of the Massawepie property. Meanwhile, Fred Wellington was working to convince B. Emmet Finucane (of Security Trust Company, also on the Community Chest Board), whose support would be crucial, to visit Massawepie. Finucane still supported further developing the existing camp at Eagle Island. Finucane was council president when the former Camp Pioneer was sold to purchase Camp Cutler, a decision partly "sold" to him by the information from the national BSA citing Cutler's proximity to Rochester. Needless to say, he was concerned that purchasing an Adirondack camp seemed to contradict that rationale for the earlier decision. Wellington arranged for Charles Heistand, Regional Scout Executive, to both write to and meet with Mr. Finucane and explain that Eagle Island was simply too small and that the acceptable distance for a long-term camp was much more than for a short-term camp.

In late September council president William Fay wrote to Richard Miller, Director of the Rochester Community Chest seeking tentative approval for a \$400,000 capital campaign during the

fall of 1950 to purchase and develop Massawepie. In late October, Clyde Sykes (on behalf of the family) counter offered to sell all but the Townline Pond area for \$125,000, which was promptly rejected by the Scouts, who also made the decision to begin looking a property in Canada on either end of Lake Ontario. In February, 1950, the Community Chest granted tentative approval for a fall 1951 capital campaign. (Apparently the Boy Scouts were "in line" behind a hospital campaign and a planned Salvation Army campaign.) In July, Carey Brown wrote to Clyde Sykes following a meeting with Roy Sykes, and stated that the council would only consider purchasing the entire property (with no exclusions) and that the personal property in the various building could be retained by the Sykes family.

While the wide gap in price between the council's \$65,000 offer and the Sykes' \$125,000 counteroffer had drastically slowed the process, there were still discussions going on. In September, 1950, there was correspondence with John MacDonald (the Utica appraiser) about the possibility of selling Massawepie timber (hardwood and softwood where removal wouldn't "spoil the shoreline") for \$10,000 to offset the purchase price. MacDonald urged speed, since the timber market was strong that year. On October 25, a special meeting of Carey Brown, M. Herbert Eisenhart, Herman Cohn, Richard Miller, B. Emmet Finucane and Fred Wellington discussed the mounting "pressure from the field" for new and larger summer camping facilities. Mr. Finucane stated that he was willing to support the Massawepie site and to bring together "a group of the most influential business men and industrialists" to urge their support. The group agreed to try to purchase Massawepie for \$85,000, but didn't disagree with a suggestion that the eventual price might be \$100,000. Since the Salvation Army had postponed its capital campaign, Mr. Miller now indicated that the Scouts were "next in eligibility" for a campaign, but would need detailed purchase, development, and equipment schedules.

This article will be concluded in the Winter 2006 issue of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association newsletter.

BarkEater Program...*from Page 1*
camp experience through the following:

A program that builds on itself through five summers at camp.

- Special progressive recognition for each of the five summers.
- Distinctive ceremonies, the likes of which have not been experienced in this region.
- A greater understanding of Adirondack and Massawepie history and lore.

- Elements that reinforce the aims and ideals of Scouting.

An alternate adult requirement for becoming a BarkEater is to spend at least four days and nights at camp helping with ranger approved work projects for the betterment of the camp. This can be fulfilled by attending two full work weekends – Skills and Beaver. We will likely preview the new second year BarkEater ceremony at next spring's Beaver Weekend.

Until next time, may the bark be with you.



ED. NOTE: On the way home from camp we visited several gift shops. The manager of a shop in the Star Lake/Cranberry Lake area mentioned that a little over three weeks before, a man headed for Massawepie had been in looking for a very large plush beaver. Do you know anything about this, Brad?

**Massawepie Staff Alumni Association
Providing "Spirit, Service and Support"!**

Sixth Annual Fall Family Picnic & Clambake

Come join us for an afternoon and evening of fun and food,
and bring your old and/or new camp photos and memories to share!

(Must be a PAID Association Member or family of paid member to attend.)

Saturday September 24th, 2005

Shady Rest Pavilion (off Woolston Rd. near Irondequoit Creek)

Powder Mills Park, Perinton, NY

2:00 PM - until?

COST:

\$10.00 per adult (same as last year!)

Includes 2 dozen clams, chicken, salt potatoes and corn on the cob

\$5.00 per child

Includes hot dogs and chicken, salt potatoes and corn on the cob

Please BYOB and a munchie or dessert to share!

**Send form below and check or money order (payable to Otetiana Council, BSA) to:
Massawepie Staff Alumni Association, 7131 Gulick Rd., Naples, NY 14512**

Please pre-register & pay by Friday September 16th, 2005!

MSAA Family Picnic/Clambake RESERVATION/PAYMENT FORM
Saturday September 24th, 2005

PRINT NAME _____ Phone Number _____

Number of Adults attending: _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

Number of Children attending: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Check to: Otetiana Council, BSA **(Due BY Friday 9-16-05)**

Membership News

Listed below are the 3 new MSAA members who have joined since the listing in the Spring newsletter.

Rosemary Varga (1998 & 2005 staff volunteer)

Anthony Pulvino (Friend of Alumni member)

Paul Varga (1990 staff)

Welcome to the MSAA!

Membership Renewal

Alumni Association memberships expire on May 31. Each year, our membership ranks decrease at that time, pending renewals and new members. As of the end of July, we are back up to 85 members, which is a good start toward our goal of having 100 members this year.

If you know a Massawepie staff alumni or friend of Massawepie who's not a member, please encourage him or her to join or renew. (Membership forms are available in the "About Us" section of MassStaffAlumni.org.) If your membership has now expired, you'll find a membership renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. Send \$10 (or \$20 for 2

Upcoming Events

September 2005

- 16 Family Picnic/Clambake Registrations Due
- 16-18 Massawepie Fall Skills Weekend
- 24 Sixth Annual Staff Alumni Association Family Picnic & Clambake (see article in this issue)

February or March 2006

- TBA MSAA Winter Rendezvous

May 2006

- 19-21 Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie Alumni welcome, skill or no skill!

June 2006

- 2-4 Beaver Weekend at Massawepie
- 3 MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle

years) to the return address shown on the form. Or, you can receive complimentary one-year membership extension by returning the attached membership form with \$50 of donations (total) to the 2006 Massawepie kayak program and/or to the "Square Foot" Endowment (which will support Massawepie equipment and maintenance in perpetuity).

If your membership expired in May of last year or earlier (see the mailing label for your membership expiration date), please send in your renewal ASAP! *In order to keep receiving newsletters, please renew today.*

If you have moved please send your new address to: Peter Collinge, MSAA Secretary, 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534-2639.

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

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