

FALL 2011 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!



Photos by G. Varga



2011 Annual Meeting and Elections

The Annual Meeting of the MSAA membership was held on June 4, 2011 during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie. The meeting was held in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle, led by Gary Hicks. The slate of Executive Committee officers and members-at-large, as presented in the spring issue of Beaver Tales, was unanimously approved by those in attendance. (Several other members opted to return to work projects rather than attend the meeting.) Gary reported on the work of the committee throughout the year. Peter Collinge provided financial and membership reports. The MSAA Donor Option for a staff tabin looks successful. Mike Knittel updated the ongoing work with sailboat repairs: spare parts are available and 18 boats are ready for use, the most in years. Erin Burruto reported continued growth in Eagle Flight – over 70 participants are expected this year. 2012 will be the 60th Anniversary of Massawepie. We'll need to temper our celebration so we don't compete with the 75th Anniversary of Babcock-Hovey.

MSAA members worked on many Beaver Weekend projects: feeding the volunteers all weekend, waterfront set up, campsite crews (including moving two sites), construction of two new pit latrines, trail work, cabin reroofing & painting, construction of tabin frames in the staff site, and others. See the photos here and inside.



Executive Committee

Chair

Gary Hicks
gar2724@aol.com

Vice-Chair

Erin Burruto

**Treasurer &
Council VP of Camping**

Peter Collinge

Secretary

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Past Chair

Stephanie VonBacho

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Webmaster**

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**Member at Large &
Newsletter Editor**

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Mike Knittel,
Council Properties Chair

David Lippitt,
Council Commissioner

Mark Pulvino

Staff Advisor

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MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org



Welcome to the 12th year of the MSAA! Who would have thought that we'd be where we are, and having done all we have? I'm writing this the day after the most recent, and very successful, Family Picnic and Clambake. We're looking to continue this tradition, but maybe with another food theme. Who knows? You do...talk to us!

We look forward to the continued support of our present membership, as well as growth in our ranks. After all, more hands make for more fun and many more projects being completed. Here's to many more years of fun, fellowship, spirit, and most importantly, hard work and service to the GREATEST Boy Scout Camp in the organization!

New members joining since May, 2011:

Andy Burkhartzmeyer

Scott Gonyeo, Eagle Flight '09-'11

Shelley O'Hern

All have been staff volunteers recently, Andy at the Health Lodge, and Scott & Shelley with Eagle Flight. Welcome!

Erin Burruto is the new Executive Committee Vice-Chair. He was approved by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Executive Committee Member at Large Mike Knittel is the new Chair of the Council Properties Committee!

We have tentatively set Saturday February 11, 2012, 4:30pm, for our Winter Gathering. We plan to gather at an area micro-brewery for sampling, snacks and

fun. Please hold the date! Details will be sent to regional members in January.

2012 will be the 60th Anniversary of the opening of Massawepie Scout Camps. We are looking for ways to celebrate. Should we have an event? Where and what kind of event? The council will be issuing a special shoulder patch in honor of the anniversary (and one for the 75th Anniversary of Camp Babcock-Hovey). Should we issue a special item? What item? Let us know!

Thanks to the generosity of many members, we exceeded our 2011 Donor Option goal! \$1,755 was raised for our Staff Tabin project. This meant that four more tabins were added to the Staff Site rather than three. A special Donor Option Project for 2012 will be announced in the coming months.

Dues & Donor Options Amount To Increase

by Peter

As Treasurer, at the September Executive Committee meeting I proposed an increase in dues and minimum donation in place of dues. The current amounts have been in place since MSAA was founded in 2000. Inflation and resulting increases in prices drive the proposal. Since not all E.C. members were at the meeting, a vote was conducted by e-mail and all approved. The new rates taking effect in the spring of 2012 are: one year dues, \$15 (up from \$10); two years dues, \$25 (up from \$20); and donation in place of one year dues, \$60 (up from \$50). Yes, you will now get a discount for a two-year renewal.

Treasurer's Report

by Peter

Balance on 12/31/10	\$2,288.57	
CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSE
Dues.....	\$540.00	\$0.00
Administrative (mailing, website, etc.).....	\$0.00	\$88.80
Camp Project, Donor Option (staff tabin)	\$1,755.00	\$1,755.00
Square Foot Endowment, Donor Option	\$805.00	\$805.00
Social Event (winter gathering, picnic/clambake)	\$90.00	\$239.00
Memorabilia (patches, tee shirts).....	\$63.00	\$0.00
TOTALS.....	\$3,253.00	\$2,887.80
Balance as of 8/31/11.....	\$2,653.77	
Paid Membership as of 10/15/11: 81 (down 8 from 12/31/10)		

Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Hits Milestone

by Peter

During 2010, the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund passed \$50,000. Not bad for a fund started less than 10 years ago, and receiving mostly small donations! The money in this fund is invested, and the proceeds are used for equipment and maintenance at Massawepie. The 2010 details are as follows:

Balance 12/31/2009	\$48,966
Distributed for Camp	- 1,650
New Donations	+ 1,405
Investment Gains.....	+ 3,882
Balance 12/31/2010....	\$52,603



Donations to this fund are always welcome. Checks should be made payable to Seneca Waterways Council, with a note attached saying, "For the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund." (If you send your donation to Don DeClerck at Camp Cutler, the Alumni Association can include it in our totals for the year.) Some members have made donations as tributes or memorials. You may also wish to include a bequest in your will to Seneca Waterways Council, Boy Scouts of America, again specifying that this is, "For the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment." Thanks to all who have helped to build this fund. Now let's see how soon we can get to \$100,000!

MSC 2011

by Steve W & George

In his 10th year as Camp Director, Steve led another very successful year of camping at Pioneer, serving about 1800 youth and 600 leaders. These campers were in 115 troops from the states of New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and one troop from England. Trek had a great year with 155 campers in 21 different treks!

Mark Costello did a super job in his first year as Program Director and 6th year on staff.

Popular events included the Friday Carnival, Monday (staff) campfire, zombie survival "merit badge," the "inappropriate things shoot-off" at Shotgun (Wks. 4-6 only), and BarkEater.

The Trading Post returned to greatness with high ratings and increased sales under the direction of new Manager, Mary Beth Boyle! She was guided by George Varga, who returned as Retail Manager.



Photo by Miss Hicks

2011 Fall Family Picnic & Clams

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by George, including most photos

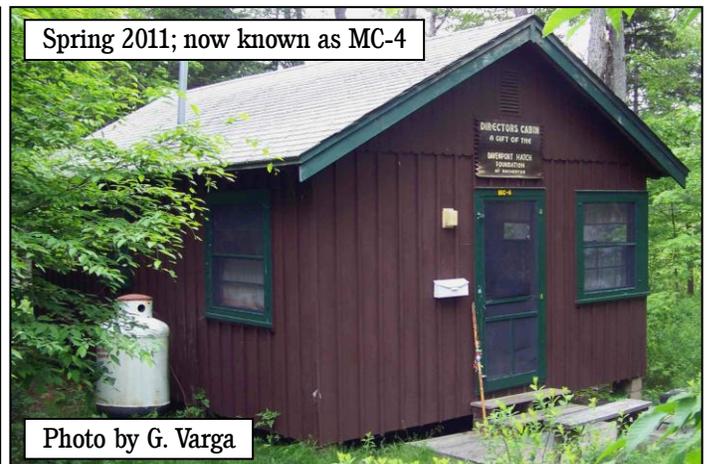
A beautiful fall day in Powder Mills Park was the setting for our almost annual event. 25 adults and 4 kids attended. Most were “regulars,” but we welcomed a few who were new to the event. (By the time the traditional group photo was taken, a few people had departed and a few had returned to fishing.) Peter brought a book about the Grasse River Club. Mike brought memorabilia to share and camaraderie was rampant. Don (with an assist from son Donny, who has almost completed requirements for Eagle) steamed the clams, the highlight of the meal. Gary brought and cooked salt potatoes as his dish-to-pass. An abundance of snacks, appetizers, salads and sides were brought by others. A few cooked chicken or hots to go along with their clams. The event was financially successful too. The shelter fee and cost of clams and butter were more than covered, helping to make up for the shelter fee lost when the 2010 event had to be cancelled.

Massawepie Then & Now: the Directors Cabin *by George*

This was the first cabin built along Catamount Pond for staff housing. Funding was from a gift of the Davenport-Hatch Foundation. The Roy Warren Central Administration Building (Central Office) was dedicated on the same day in 1956.



Dedication Day, Spring 1956

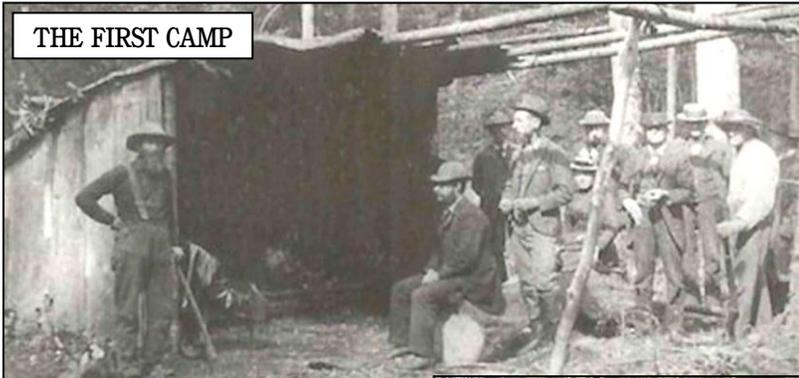


Spring 2011; now known as MC-4

Photo by G. Varga



THE FIRST CAMP



THE FIRST MAIN CAMP/CLUB HOUSE



OTHER HOUSES IN THE COMPLEX



THE CLUB HOUSE TODAY



Grasse River Club History Notes & More *by Peter*

Did you know that Massawepie's neighbor to the southwest, the Grasse River Club, was founded in 1889 and incorporated in Massachusetts in 1892? They currently own about 4400 acres, including much of the Massawepie Mire¹ and the west side of Town Line Pond². The main complex of club buildings³ is located along the South Branch of the Grasse River. The former Grasse River Railroad bed⁴, now owned by New York State, passes through club property. The Club's land ownership past is convoluted. The Grasse River Outing Club purchased the land in 1892, and then sold it to the Emporium Forestry Company in 1911, who sold it to Tri-River Power Corporation (later Niagara Mohawk) in 1930, who sold it to the Grasse River Association in 1946. Since about 1930 the Grasse River Association has largely been made up of people from the Syracuse area. The entrance road⁵ to the Club passes through the Massawepie property south of Townline Pond.

Most Massawepie rangers have had good relations with the caretakers of the Grasse River Club, and they have occasionally helped each other out over the years. Merv Thomas, club caretaker from 1997 until recently, was formerly an assistant ranger at Massawepie under Loren Hakes.

Most Boy Scout maps of Massawepie name the Massawepie Lake outlet stream as the "Grasse River." It isn't! The Massawepie Outlet⁶ (which leaves Long Bay of Massawepie Lake slightly northwest of Bayview outpost and Eagle Island, and flows westward, south of Pine Pond) connects to the South Branch of the Grasse River within the Grasse River Club property about two miles west of Massawepie Lake. That stretch is full of beaver dams, which sometimes raise the level of Massawepie Lake. The white trail bridge⁷ over the outlet, built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1980's, will need replacing soon.

Thanks to John Hancock, a Club member, for much of the club information above, plus the old photos. John is writing a book about the club, the railroad and the Sykes family. He has used some historical information from our website.

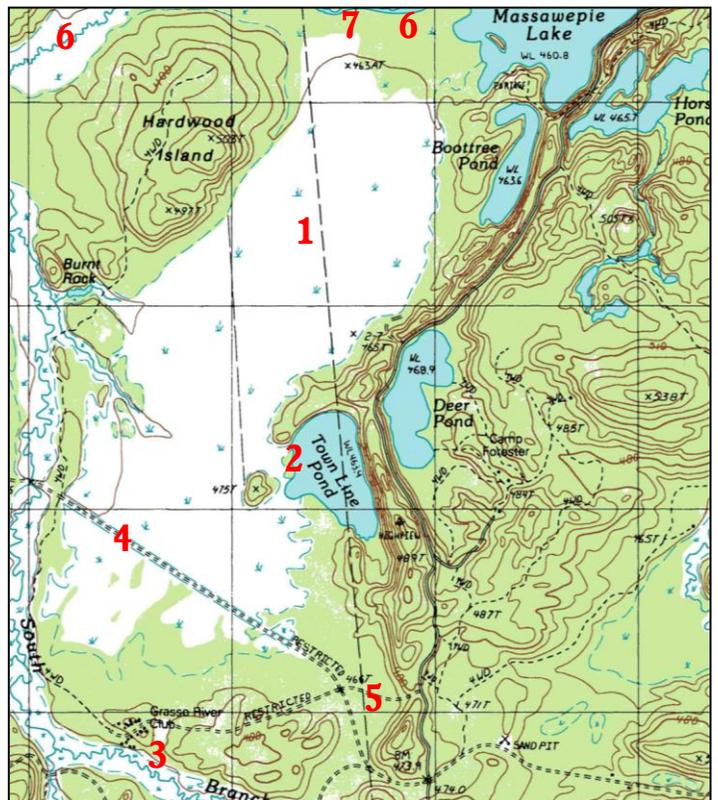
A CLUB HOUSE BEDROOM



Kitchen, note propane lights



Top photos are from the Grasse River Club Collection. Other photos are by Phil Roberts. Thanks to Massawepie Ranger (and MSAA member) Ben Geiger for giving tours of the Club and area in July and September of this year. Enjoying the tours were MSAA members Peter Collinge, Gael & Phil Roberts, Rosemary & George Varga, and others.



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INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Beaver Weekend Recap & Photos!
- MSAA News & Notes!
- Fall Family Picnic & Clams!
- The Grasse River Club!
- And more!

Visit us at masstaffalumni.org

TO:

Membership Renewal

If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, your membership has expired. Renew now to keep receiving this newsletter, and to keep supporting the future of Massawepie!

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The Executive Committee and 18 other members get Beaver Tales via e-mail. Eight (or more) copies are hand delivered. At current postal rates, we save over \$16 per issue – nearly \$50 per year! Help us save even more. Get your Beaver Tales in pdf format via e-mail. You'll get it sooner AND in color! As of this issue, all mailed copies will be printed on my black & white laser printer rather than my color ink jet printer, to save my donated time and expense. Send your request to George Varga, Editor at: givarga@rochester.rr.com . Thanks!

60th Anniversary & History Request

What happened 60 years ago? In September, 1951, the Otetiana Council closed on the purchase of the original Massawepie parcel after more than three years of negotiations with members of the Sykes family. Almost 2850 acres with a number of buildings were purchased for \$105,000. Pioneer, the first Scout camp on the reservation, opened for the 1952 season. As part of my research into Massawepie History, I'm interested in hearing about any uncontrolled fires, and also any births, weddings, and deaths, at Massawepie since 1951. Please send any information to Peter Collinge at capejo@localnet.com .

2012 EVENTS

- February 11...**Winter Gathering – *tentative*, microbrewery visit?**
- May 18-20.....**Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!**
- May 30-31.....**Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects!**
- June 1-3.....**Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!**
- June 2.....**MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle!**