

# FALL 2013 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

*Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!*



Photos by G. Varga



**2013 Annual Meeting and Elections**

The Annual Meeting of the MSAA membership was held on June 1 during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie in the Dining Hall, led by Gary Hicks (his last as Chair). In attendance were 10 members of the Executive Committee and 11 other members. Several other members were still working on projects or had to head home early. The slate of Executive Committee officers and members-at-large, as listed in the Spring issue of Beaver Tales, was unanimously approved. Also unanimously approved were the proposed changes to our Rules of Operation, as presented in the Spring issue. Gary reported on the work of the committee throughout the year. Peter Collinge provided financial and membership reports. Our Donor Option fundraising for BMX bikes did okay but will be short of our goal. Don reported that the BMX bike course will be ready when camp opens and will start with six bikes. There was discussion about renaming Trek Lodge in memory of Bill Keymel. All members were asked to submit ideas for social events. MSAA members worked on many Beaver Weekend projects: feeding the volunteers all weekend, waterfront set up, campsite set up, construction of two more pit latrines, trail work, cabin reroofing, construction of more tabin frames in the staff site, and many others – big and small. See the photos here and inside.



Erin



Hello All and welcome to Fall! Another summer at Massawepie has come and gone. We are soon coming on a great time to visit camp. The off-season, and especially deep winter, is a beautiful time in the Adirondacks. Many people travel to the mountains in Fall to look at the leaves. I believe the winter, with its beautiful snow cap, is the perfect complement to the summer greens. The camp is mostly quiet and devoid of the normal hustle and bustle of camp life. If you get a chance, and desire something a little more peaceful and serene, please try to stop by, and say "Hello" to Ben.

## Executive Committee

- Chair**  
Erin Burruto  
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- Vice-Chair**  
*Open*
- Treasurer**  
Peter Collinge
- Secretary**  
Joe Varga  
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- Past Chair**  
Gary Hicks
- Member at Large & Webmaster**  
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Sean Glenney  
Mike Knittel  
David Lippitt  
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- MSAA Web Site**  
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One new member joined the MSAA over the summer: Phillip Bartels, who is an attorney living in Connecticut. Phillip worked in Mountaineer in 1967 as a Commissioner's Aide and in 1968 headed the Nature/Conservation program. Welcome Phillip!

In other member news: David Lippitt became the (volunteer) President of Seneca Waterways Council in May; Steve Weisenreder is now Senior Director of Camping and Youth Development at the Bayview YMCA in Penfield; Peter Collinge retired after 27+ years of teaching math at Monroe Community College.

## MSC Equipment Donor Option 2013 Update

by George

The Camp Equipment/Project Donor Option for 2013 was to support the new BMX bike program by raising money to purchase bikes. Our goal was to raise \$1500. The course was built in the field between the Archery Range and COPE & Climbing. Six bikes were purchased and the special program was very popular. However, as noted in the Treasurer's Report, donations came up short so we'll need to make it up from the treasury. You can still donate to this cause by sending a check to Don at the address on Page 1. Note that your check is for BMX bikes. Your help, as always, will be appreciated.

## Treasurer's Report

by Peter

Balance on 12/31/12 .....	\$2,878.24	
<u>CATEGORY .....</u>	<u>INCOME .....</u>	<u>EXPENSE .....</u>
Dues.....	\$885.00	\$0.00
Administrative (mailing, website, etc.).....	\$0.00	\$40.94
Camp Project, Donor Option (BMX bikes).....	\$700.00	\$700.00
Square Foot Endowment, Donor Option .....	\$1,095.00	\$1,445.00
Social Event (winter gathering, picnic/clambake) .....	\$645.00	\$436.00
Memorabilia (patches, tee shirts).....	\$41.00	\$0.00
<u>TOTALS.....</u>	<u>\$3,366.00</u>	<u>\$2,621.94</u>
Balance as of 9/30/13 .....	\$3,622.30	

Your Association is having a good year to date financially. As you can see above, we've taken in about \$745 more than we've spent. We've also raised \$1095 from MSAA members for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment, and \$700 for bikes for the popular new BMX course. However, the Association did promise to raise at least \$1500 for the bikes, so it looks like we'll also be donating about \$800 more from our treasury for that project in order to keep our promise. Money sent to the Square Foot Endowment included \$350 from the Treasury for a Square Yard in honor of Steve Weisenreder. So, overall, we may roughly break even for the year.



## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

by Joe

The Executive Committee met at Olmsted Lodge on September 12. The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm. Present were Erin, Peter, Joe, Gary and George. Mark and Don were excused. All others were absent.

Peter showed us the letter which stated that the Massawepie warehouse/land dispute is finally settled after 40 years. (See article on Page 5.) We thank Peter for spearheading the effort and legalities involved.

The Financial Summary was handed out by Peter (see above). Discussion followed.

A number of "members" have not renewed. Renewal Forms will be sent to them with the next newsletter.

The Fall Family Picnic with Clams is scheduled for 9/29. According to George, approximately 100 people with local/regional addresses, including most of the 2013 camp staff, were invited. Few responses are in to date. E-mail reminders will be sent with a deadline of 9/22 to respond. It was then decided who will purchase and/or bring needs for the event. (See article and photos on Page 3.)

Article responsibilities and deadlines were set for the November newsletter.

Our Winter Event will be at Olmsted Lodge on a Saturday afternoon/evening in late January or February; date to be determined by Erin. All members, plus all past staff we can contact, will be invited. It will be "bring your own beverage."

We discussed possible 2014 Donor Option possibilities (no decision) and tentatively set Thursday November 14 at Olmsted for our next meeting.

## MSC 2013

by Ed Theetge

This was my first year as the Director of Massawepie Scout Camps and it was phenomenal! As many of you know this is the second camp that I have been a Camp Director for and my third camp as a staff member. I had a lot of worries about how this summer would go and how I would be received. But, the whole summer went better than I ever could have expected. Massawepie is truly the jewel of the Adirondacks and our program and staff are second to none. I am really excited for next year and look forward to getting to know more of the alumni of this one of a kind camp.

## 2013 Fall Family Picnic & Clams

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*by George, including most photos*

Another beautiful fall day in Powder Mills Park was the setting for this annual event. 15 members enjoyed the rampant camaraderie. For the first time in years, Don could not be with us to head up the cook crew. His son Donny (who has been the assistant cook) is now in college, and it was Parent's Weekend. Gary, with an assist from several of us, steamed the clams, the highlight of the meal. Gary also melted the butter, and cooked salt potatoes as his dish-to-pass. An abundance of snacks, appetizers, salads and desserts were brought by others. Erin brought two growlers from the new Fairport Brewing Company to share. The event was again very successful financially.



## The Seneca Waterways Council Office is Moving *by Peter*

Scouting in the Rochester/Finger Lakes region is about to have a new home! By early 2014, a new council office will be located at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, in Brighton near East Henrietta Road and MCC.

Why a new office? When Seneca Waterways Council was formed in 2010, it inherited the two offices of the merged councils, in Rochester and in Geneva. Over time it became clear that it was inefficient to operate two offices; most functions moved to Rochester, leaving the Geneva office underutilized. But the Rochester office at 474 East Avenue has many years of deferred maintenance that would cost over a half million dollars to repair. Also the main (rear) parking lot does not belong to the council. The owner is not willing to renew the lease that expires at the end of 2013, potentially leaving that office with inadequate parking. Therefore, the council Executive Board decided to sell both buildings and buy a new office with adequate space and parking. The new office will have other advantages: larger training and meeting rooms, a larger Scout Shop, a Scouting Museum area, and lower operating costs. The total cost of purchase, renovation, and endowing future maintenance of the office is estimated at \$3 million, of which close to half has already been raised from donations and the sale of the two buildings. Fundraising is underway for the remainder. For large donors, naming opportunities in the new building start with donations of \$10,000. Typical Scouters and units may be more interested in the Honor Courtyard at the entrance of the new building. The courtyard will feature engraved bricks honoring present and past Scouts and Scouters. All funds raised by the sale of bricks (priced starting at \$250) will help endow the future maintenance of the building, to keep it in good repair as the headquarters of local Scouting. Information on buying a brick may be obtained from the council, or from Peter Collinge at [capejo@localnet.com](mailto:capejo@localnet.com).



## Winter Event 2014

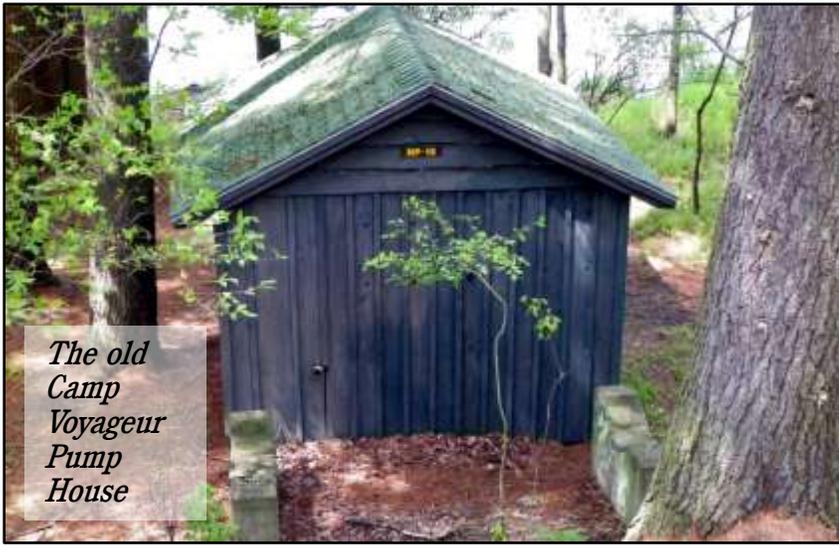
Our annual Winter Event will be on a Saturday in late January or in February. Date and time are to be determined, depending on open dates/times at Olmsted Lodge. Info will be posted on our web site when determined. Check often. This will be a social event, with food covered by fees, and it will be "bring your own beverage/s."

# 4 Beaver Weekend 2013

# Thanks!

Photos by G. Varga

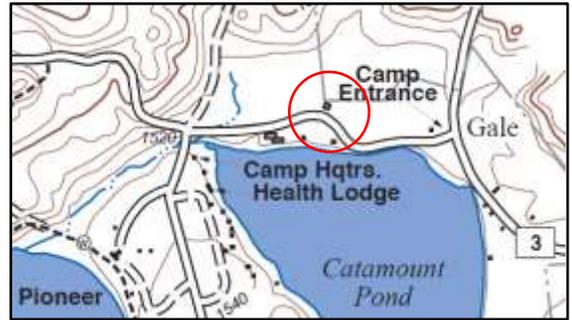




*The old  
Camp  
Voyageur  
Pump  
House*



**5**  
*It's all in  
the way  
you look  
at life.*



## Massawepie Past and Present: Camp Finally Buys Building *by Peter*

Okay, that headline isn't quite accurate, but the real headline would be too long: "Scout Council finally buys the remaining 1/3 of a jointly owned building at Massawepie." Yes, more than 40 years ago one of the Massawepie buildings was accidentally built partly on a neighbor's property. Where? You might guess it was at Camp Forester, since some of us realize that several troop campsites at Forester were always on Niagara Mohawk land rather than Scout property, though Niagara Mohawk never objected to that encroachment. But the actual Forester buildings are solidly on Massawepie property. The problem building was much closer to Pioneer than Forester, and this neighbor did object.

After "Buzz" (Raymond) Dumas bought land along Route 3 adjoining Massawepie in 1977, he realized that the parking lot for the camp warehouse (off Massawepie Road, formerly known as Townline Road, near the camp shop) was on his property. Buzz was the brother of the late Walt Dumas, famous to many Massawepie alumni as proprietor of Dumas' Restaurant and Bar, more recently known as the Thirsty Moose. Buzz said that he hesitated at first to push the issue, wanting to stay on good (relatively) terms with the camp and with Loren Hakes, the long-time ranger, but that he did tell Loren that the parking lot was on his land. In fact, roughly the front 1/3 of the warehouse itself was also on Dumas land, though it is unclear when Buzz realized that. After Loren retired, Buzz began to push harder to resolve this boundary issue, but Otetiana Council wasn't in any hurry since the legal problem didn't really affect the camp - the camp warehouse and its parking lot were still in full use by the Scouts.

At the time of the sale of Massawepie's easement to New York State in 1998, the state surveyors confirmed that the camp warehouse and its parking lot were partly on Dumas land (actually owned jointly by Buzz and his wife, Joan Dumas). Soon thereafter, in 1999, the Dumas family took the Otetiana Council to court to resolve this land boundary. The judge and attorneys eventually came up with a settlement that involved swapping 1.39 acres of Scout land for .31 acres of Dumas land, and the necessary deeds were signed in 2002. However, for unknown reasons, these deeds and documents were never officially filed with the St. Lawrence County Clerk, so never took effect. That's probably a good thing for two reasons: the .31 acres from Dumas barely covered the warehouse and parking lot, leaving no buffer zone around the parking lot, and the deed for the 1.39 acres intended for Dumas didn't mention that there was a state easement on this land, as required by the easement terms for transferring any Massawepie land.

In 2009 while serving as Vice President of Camping for the council, I became aware that this boundary issue had never been fully resolved. After obtaining and reviewing as many documents as possible to understand the situation, I began informal discussions with Buzz Dumas. These took time, since Buzz was not in good health, but we eventually outlined the framework of an agreement. Before that could be finalized, I was saddened to hear that Buzz had died on June 14, 2011, at the age of 82.

Later that year, I began discussing the situation with Buzz's widow, Joan Dumas. We both wanted to resolve the situation promptly, and eventually agreed on a boundary adjustment that would give Massawepie .91 acres of land including the rest of the warehouse and its parking lot and a buffer around the parking lot, in exchange for a \$2000 payment to Joan and her son who was now a co-owner of the property. This resolution was approved by the Seneca Waterways Executive Board on December 11, 2012. At the start of Beaver Weekend in 2013, I met a surveyor at the site and he staked out the .91 acre parcel (a parallelogram of approximately 200 x 200 feet). The appropriate papers were drawn up by Gerry Murphy (an attorney and Scouter) and signed, and filed with St. Lawrence County on August 20, 2013. After 40+ years, the entire Massawepie warehouse finally belongs to the Scout council!

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association  
J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation  
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Naples, NY 14512

## INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Beaver Weekend Recap & Photos!
- MSAA News & Notes!
- Fall Family Picnic & Clams!
- MSC Warehouse Land Deal!
- And much more!

Visit us at [masstaffalumni.org](http://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 continue supporting the future of Massawepie!

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## Another Way to Serve: Join the Eagle Flight Staff

The highly successful Eagle Flight program at Massawepie needs adult staff members. Program leaders are seeking scoutmasters, merit badge counselors and other assistance. For more information, contact Erin Burruto: [eburruto@gmail.com](mailto:eburruto@gmail.com).

## Go GREEN!

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## 2013-14 EVENTS

TBD ..... (late Jan./Feb.) Winter Gathering, Olmsted Lodge in Highland Park (check our web site for info)

May 16 ..... Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting, Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC

May 16-18... Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!

May 27-29... Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects!

May 30 - June 1... Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!

May 31..... MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle or the Dining Hall!