

FALL 2014 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!



Photo by G. Varga



2014 Annual Meeting and Elections

The MSAA Annual Meeting was held on May 31st during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle. It was led by George Varga, his first as Chair. Attending were 6 Executive Committee members and 7 other members. Several other members were still working on projects or had to head home early. George opened the meeting at 8:02 by apologizing for the later than normal start, noting that the delay allowed him to take in over \$500 in sales at the Trading Post. He also took credit for the great weather all weekend. This is a benefit of speaking first. The first official order of business was approval of the slate of Executive Committee officers and members-at-large, as listed in the Spring issue of Beaver Tales, which was unanimous. Also unanimously approved were Tim Smith and Richard Wright to fill the two open Member at Large slots; both volunteered at the meeting. Our Fall and Winter events were successful. Dave thanked Tim for stepping up to head the kitchen crew when Gary could not be there. Peter provided financial and membership reports. Our Donor Option fundraising for the White Trail Bridge over the Massawepie Lake outlet came to \$1100 and we have 86 paid members. Mike proposed that we donate a Square Yard in memory of Ray Meyering; all agreed and this will be made official in October. A plaque has been placed on the Trek Lodge officially renaming it Keymel Lodge in honor and memory of Bill Keymel. Nearly 100 people were at part or all of Beaver Week/Weekend! MSAA members worked on many 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, as well as the "glory" project: the bridge. See the photos inside. The shortest meeting on record ended at 8:24 with the traditional group photo.

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Seasonal greetings Staff Alumni! Meetings, social activities and camp work weekends for 2014 are history; it was an exciting and busy year. In 2015 the MSAA will celebrate the completion of 15 years of service and support for our camp. The Executive Committee is planning to make 2015 our best year yet. YOU can help in several ways. First, renew your membership, and if you haven't already, consider making an additional financial donation. Second, recruit new members; encourage staff friends from any year to join the MSAA - more members means more help. Third, attend our social events if you live in the region. Fourth, volunteer at one or more work weekends. During the Fall and Winter our focus is on planning and on social events. Of late, social events have enriched our treasury, enabling the Association to give more support to our camp. In the Spring our focus turns to service - work weekends. Some of our members also volunteer at camp in the Summer, the Fall, and even in the Winter. There are always projects to do. Obviously, many volunteers are not MSAA members; but our membership is always well represented. If you have great memories of your time at Massawepie, make more through the Staff Alumni Association!



Treasurer's Report (as of 10/15/14; unaudited) *by Peter*

Balance on 12/31/13.....		\$3,147.74
<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>
Dues	\$885.00.....	\$0.00
Administrative (mailing, website, etc.)	\$0.00.....	\$44.64
Camp Project, Donor Option (White Trail Bridge).....	\$1,530.00.....	\$1,530.00
Square Foot Endowment, Donor Option.....	\$525.00.....	\$1,375.00*
Social Event (winter gathering, picnic/clambake).....	\$445.00.....	\$207.00
Memorabilia (patches, tee shirts).....	\$0.00.....	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$3,385.00	\$3,156.64
Balance as of 10/15/14		\$3,376.10

*Includes Courtyard Brick and Meyering donations from the MSAA treasury.

Your Association is having another good year to date financially, thanks to our loyal membership. So far, we've raised \$1530 for the successful replacement of the White Trail Bridge over the Massawepie Outlet, along with \$525 for the Massawepie Endowment. Since our fund balance is healthy, the Executive Committee authorized two additional gifts this year. We donated \$500 to sponsor a brick in the courtyard at the new Council Service Center, and hope this will also be good advertising for prospective MSAA members. We also donated \$350 to the Massawepie Endowment in memory of Ray Meyering. Your dues and donations (plus some excess income over expenses at social events) make all this possible, so thanks on behalf of all of Massawepie's present and future Scouts and Staff!

Fall 2014 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

We met at the new SWC Service Center on October 7. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present were George, Tim, Peter, Don, Mike, David, Richard, Gary and Mark; Erin, Rob, Stephanie and Joe were excused; Sean was absent.

Peter led off with Finance and Membership reports. See above for details. Since funds are available we formally voted to donate \$350 to the Square Yard Endowment in memory of Ray Meyering. [This has since been done.] A number of "members" have not renewed. Renewal Forms will be sent to them with the newsletter.

The next topic was a location and date for our annual Winter Gathering. George suggested that since they now have food, CB Craft Brewers would be worth a try. All agreed this was a good choice, and decided on Sunday March 8, 2015 for the event. See Page 3 for more. [David has since made a reservation.]

We discussed possible 2015 Donor Option possibilities. Several ideas were brought up and discussed. Peter and David will seek more information on two of the ideas and a final decision will be made in February. [See adjacent article for an update.]

Article responsibilities and timing were set for the Fall newsletter.

Finally we talked about promoting attendance at Beaver Weekend (and increasing MSAA membership). The idea of contacting former staff members "celebrating" anniversary years was suggested by Mark and it was agreed that this sounded promising. Mark has contact with over 30 members of the 1985 staff. We decided to focus on 10- and 30-year "anniversaries" for 2015. Peter will try to get staff rosters from 2005 and 1985 by our next meeting so we can start the process.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:00.

MSAA News & Notes *by Peter*

We welcome four new members who joined the MSAA over the summer:

Patrick Burns worked in the Mountaineer Trading Post in 1976 under Camp Director Tom Spruck and Reservation Director Jack McDonough. Pat now works as a tool & die maker and is an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 48 in Greece, NY. He attended our Fall Picnic and Clams in September.

William Conklin worked at Mountaineer in the mid-1950s. He remembers working under Reservation Director Elgin Deering. William worked in Scoutcraft, the Trading Post and the Trail Store. He was a Scouter and banker for many years, and is now retired and living in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Michael Hellaby was a CIT at Mountaineer in 1998, then Assistant TrailBlazers Director in 2000 and Archery Director in 2002 at Pioneer. He is an architect living in Scottsville, NY.

Barry Magoffin was a CIT in 1973 and worked at the Forester Waterfront in 1974. He currently lives in New Hampshire and works for the Defense Department. He helped on the White Trail Bridge replacement project during Beaver Weekend this year.

Paid membership in the MSAA is now 83.

MSAA Donor Option 2015?

The Seneca Waterways Council is starting to consider a major fundraising campaign to expand the Pioneer Dining Hall, so helping with that campaign will likely be our 2015 Donor Option if it is underway by next Spring. If not, we are considering several other exciting possibilities to support.

2014 Fall Family Picnic & Clams

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by George, including photos

Yet another beautiful fall day in Powder Mills Park was the setting for this annual event on September 27th. 13 MSAA members (including 2 rookies) and 8 spouses, sons and daughters enjoyed the camaraderie. Don was back as chief clam steamer. George cooked salt potatoes as his dish-to-pass and Joe melted the butter over his charcoal fire. An abundance of snacks, appetizers, salads and desserts were brought by others and enjoyed by all. The event was again very successful financially.



Scouter Gone Home: Ray Meyering by Peter

Long-time Scouter and Massawepie Staffer Ray Meyering passed away on May 11, 2014 at the age of 85. Ray was a 75-year member of the BSA. He worked on staff at the original Camp Cutler (now part of Webster Park), and helped move equipment from Camp Cutler and Camp Eagle Island (which was in Sodus Bay) to Massawepie in 1952. Ray then worked at Massawepie during its first two years: 1952 and 1953. In 1953 he was a Provisional Scoutmaster. After a distinguished career as a NY State Trooper, Ray returned to Massawepie as the Forester Rifle Range Director from 1980-1994. After Forester closed, Ray continued as Shooting Sports/Rifle Range Director at Mountaineer (1995-1999) and then the new Pioneer (2000-2006). For most of that time his wife, Addy, also worked at camp, usually as Ray's assistant.

From 2000-2004, although the campers were at Pioneer, they still used the rifle range at Mountaineer. That was a hike from Pioneer, and Ray and Addy lived in their trailer at Mountaineer rather than with the rest of the staff in Pioneer. In 2003, the MSAA began raising funds for a new, larger (16 shooting stations) range at the edge of Camp Pioneer, to be named for the Meyerings. This was our second major project, following the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle. It turned out to be more costly when the chosen site was found to have bedrock near the surface. After several years of fundraising, topping \$100,000 thanks to a final generous gift from the John and Erika Berggren Fund, the new range opened in 2005. On July 15, 2006, it was officially dedicated as the Ray and Addy Meyering Rifle Range, and it continues to be popular today.

Here is one of Ray's stories from Massawepie. In 1952, a NYS Conservation Department fire warden recruited some camp staff (including Ray) to fight a forest fire in Childwold, by the Raquette River. They couldn't get to the fire upriver, so several staff (including Joe Klein) swam across the river to a boat that turned out to be locked to a small tree. On order of the warden, they chopped the tree down using rocks, and took the boat up river to fight the fire. Town men came back the next day and finished putting the fire out.

Ray was also active for many years with Troop 111 in Brockport, and led the Monday Night Scout Swim Program at Brockport High. Along with Addy, his wife of 57 years, sons Tom and Don also worked on Massawepie staff at various times, as did his grandson Brian Duff. Ray will be dearly missed by many.



Winter Gathering '15

Save the date! Sunday March 8, 2015 we will gather at 2:00 at CB Craft Brewers in Honeoye Falls. There will be appetizers in the pub room and copious opportunities to try various brews in the tasting room. They also brew root beer and have wine available, as well as a fantastic gift shop. A tour of the brewery is on the agenda too! Complete details, including cost, location directions, and reserving your space, will be sent to regional members in February. This should be another great event!

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Beaver Weekend 2014

THANKS!

While the bridge was the 2014 “glory” project, let’s not forget the many Beaver Week/Weekend (and Pre-Skills and Skills Weekends) volunteers who helped with more mundane but vital tasks: electrical, gas, plumbing, tent/site crews, mowing, road work, trading post, painting, roofing, cabins, waterfront, trail clearing, tabin frames, latrines and more. And thanks to the cook crews, especially Tim Smith and Kathy Elliott from the MSAA who managed all the Beaver Weekend meals (including “take-out” lunches for the bridge crew) with just a few part-time helpers. Thanks to ALL who helped get Massawepie ready for about 1900 Scout campers in the 2014 camping season. And, remember to recruit a friend for the 2015 camp work/fun weekends!

Photos by G. Varga



Help Secure the Future of Massawepie by Peter

At least nine Scout camps that operated in the Adirondacks in the 1970s are now closed*. How can you make sure that Massawepie stays open so that future Scouts and staff members can enjoy camp as you have? One way is to consider a bequest to the Massawepie Square Foot Fund in your will. Your own attorney can craft appropriate language, but to ensure your gift is used for Massawepie you should include something like, “...to the Seneca Waterways Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America (2320 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Rd., Rochester, NY 14623; EIN #16-0743108) for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund, with proceeds used in perpetuity as allowable under the New York State law for the maintenance and equipment of Massawepie Scout Camps, Tupper Lake, NY.”

*Former Adirondack Scout Camps: Bedford, Chimney Mt., Crossett Lake, Hitchins Park, Portaferry, Sans Souci, Thatcher Outpost, Vigor, Woodworth Lake.

MSAA 2014 Donor Option Update: White Trail Bridge over the Massawepie Outlet *by Peter*

By the end of Beaver Weekend, the bridge was 95% complete and useable. (It has since been finished.) It was a massive project (remember, the stringers in the photos are telephone poles), handled adeptly by numerous volunteers supported by Don DeClerck and Ben Geiger, with no reportable injuries. The logistics were complicated by the mucky soil, a swampy/buggy environment, remnants of previous bridges in the water, and the lack of road access. All materials, tools, equipment and workers were transported to the site by three boats. Old materials were removed the same way. The pontoon boat (secured by Ben and renamed the "Sketchy") with a lift (visible in some photos, and designed and built by the volunteer electrician team) was invaluable. Also invaluable were the chest waders bought by multiple volunteers, the loan of two boats, the brains and brawn of the Slug Patrol team (who worked long hours Wednesday through Saturday) and other helpers. Thanks to the efforts of all, the Massawepie TrailBlazers (new Scouts) were again able to hike around the lake on Thursdays all summer!

Photos by: Brandon Schoffer, Carol Thiel, Joe Varga, George Varga and others.



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INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Beaver Weekend Recap & Photos!
- MSAA News & Notes!
- Fall Family Picnic & Clams!
- The Bridge!
- And much more!

Visit us at masstaffalumni.org

TO:

Membership Renewal

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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!



Go GREEN!

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2015 MSAA EVENTS

March 8 Winter Gathering, CB Craft Brewers,
Honeoye Falls, 2pm (see Page 3)

May 15 Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting,
Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC

May 15-17... Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!

June 1-4... Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help
prepare for the weekend projects!

June 5-7... Beaver Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!

June 6..... MSAA Annual Meeting, about 8pm, in the Loren
Hakes Campfire Circle or the Dining Hall!

Sept. 26.... *TENTATIVE*, Fall Family Picnic & Clams