

FALL 2015 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!



2015 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 last as Chair. Attending were 9 members of the Executive Committee, 7 other MSAA members and 4 non-members. Several others were back working on projects or had to head home early. George opened the meeting at 7:40. Peter Collinge reported that the Association had a balance of \$3,600, noting that his was unusually high. He proposed that we make a \$1,000 donation to Turner Family Trek Center campaign; this was unanimously approved, and his report was accepted. Peter also reported that with the above mentioned \$1,000, the total raised to date for the campaign was \$6,000! Nancy Turner Snyder (daughter of Jerry and Doris Turner), who worked at camp 1983-85, was recognized. She was on the Beaver Weekend kitchen crew and thanked the Association for its efforts and all of the donations. The next official order of business was annual elections. George first asked for nominations for Vice-Chair and the open Member at Large slot; there were none. The nominated slate was then unanimously approved. David Lippitt thanked Tim Smith for stepping in to head the kitchen crew when Gary Hicks could not be there, as well as Nancy Snyder, Kathy Elliott and others for helping Tim. Around 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, reconstruction of the Mountaineer Scout Shower House, and many others. See the photos inside. The meeting ended at 8:10 with the traditional group photo.

CHAIRMAN'S STUMP! The MSAA remains extremely active. In 2015 we started a drive to have the Trek Center dedicated to the Turner family, by being involved in promoting it and making it our annual appeal. We committed funds to help make that happen and will continue into 2016 with our membership fundraising to achieve our \$25,000 goal.

We have members involved in many different levels of the Seneca Waterways Council, Massawepie and beyond. We have come across so many alumni of our camp staff who have the same passion as we do, but are not MSAA members. With MSAA members being heavily involved in the Massawepie Adirondack Challenge Winter Survival Event and the 46 Peak Challenge, we have seen non-member current and recent Massawepie Staff members jump in and help us make these events successful. They are a great group of volunteers! We love their passion, ideas and involvement; they would make great MSAA members. Like the ADK we could have a "Young Members" group start developing into being part of the MSAA.

I have a vision of having our membership number reach 100 and beyond. One way that can happen is to sign up some of those "Young Members" to help us "old timers" (present company included) move the Association to the next level. We must reach out to friends, new and old, who can make this happen. I challenge everyone to help, tell us who you are bringing along on our "MSAA Quest 100!" *Mark*

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2 Treasurer's Report (as of 11/15/15; unaudited) by Peter

Balance on 12/31/14.....	\$3,516.10	
CATEGORY.....	INCOME.....	EXPENSE.....
Dues.....	\$330.00.....	\$0.00
Administrative (mailing, fridge magnets, etc.).....	\$0.00.....	\$174.81
Square Foot Endowment, Donor Option, Turner Trek Center ...	\$6,805.00.....	\$7,805.00*
Social Event (Winter Gathering).....	\$300.00.....	\$272.40
Memorabilia (patches, tee shirts).....	\$10.00.....	\$0.00
TOTALS.....	\$7,445.00.....	\$8,252.21
Balance as of 11/15/15.....		\$2,708.89

*Includes \$1,000 donation from the MSAA treasury.

Your Association is doing well financially again this year. Thanks to our loyal membership, we've donated \$7,805 to Massawepie Square Foot Fund/Endowment toward naming the Trek Center for the long-time staffers in the Turner family. That included \$6,805 donated directly by the Alumni membership, and another \$1,000 from the Alumni Association overall. Your dues and donations make all this possible, so thanks on behalf of all of Massawepie's present and future Scouts and Staff!

Fall 2015 Executive Committee Meeting Notes by Tim

We met at the SWC Service Center on November 18. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Mark. Also present were George, Tim, Peter, Don, Mike, David and Richard. Rob, Sean, Gary and Stephanie were absent.

Minutes from April 7th and June 6th meetings were distributed and approved.

Peter presented Finance and Membership reports. See articles on this page for details. Those present approved the reports.

The next topic was a location and date for our annual Winter Gathering. George stated that since recent forays to regional small breweries have been very successful, we should continue in this vein. He suggested Knucklehead in Webster and Lost Borough & Swiftwater in Rochester. All agreed; Mark volunteered to investigate further. We decided on Sunday March 6, 2016 for the event. [Mark has since made a reservation. See Page 3 for more information.]

Regarding the Turner Family Trek Center, Peter Collinge reported that to date we have received \$6,805 in donations. With the \$1,000 from MSAA the total raised to date is \$7,805. The goal is \$25,000. It was mentioned that reaching out to past Trek Staff members might be fruitful. David suggested asking Mark Kurtz, who has organized some gatherings of that group, for contact information of past Trek staff members. They also do a float in the Saranac Winter Carnival parade in February and this may be another opportunity to reach out to them. There was a brief discussion of establishing a matching fund for donations. There was a general agreement to have this continue as the MSAA 2016 Donor Option. [See Special Insert for an update.] The possibility of having a second option for 2016 was tabled.

Mark proposed that the MSAA adopt as a goal to reach a membership total of 100 or more in our 16th year. There was a discussion regarding continuing efforts to reach out to former and current Massawepie Staff members (Rick Beyers, John Northrup, Kendall Smith, Mary Beth Boyle, and many others). As an Association, we must personally encourage staff members from the 1990's through today to join the Association. [See Mark's article on Page 1 for more thoughts.]

Richard noted that there will be a Christmas Party for the 2015 Massawepie Staff at the Service Center on December 10th, but that funding for it had been cut. After a brief discussion it was proposed that the MSAA donate \$200 to offset the cost of the gathering. The proposal was approved by those present. Several members of the executive committee will attend the event.

Finally, article responsibilities and timing were set for the Fall newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

MSAA News & Notes by Peter

The MSAA's current membership is as follows:

12/31/14 Paid Membership 90
5/1/15 Paid Membership 91
11/15/15 Paid Membership 72

The Executive Committee continues to look for ways to recruit new members. Please recruit a friend! Meanwhile, we expect year-end numbers to be somewhat higher when more renewals are received.

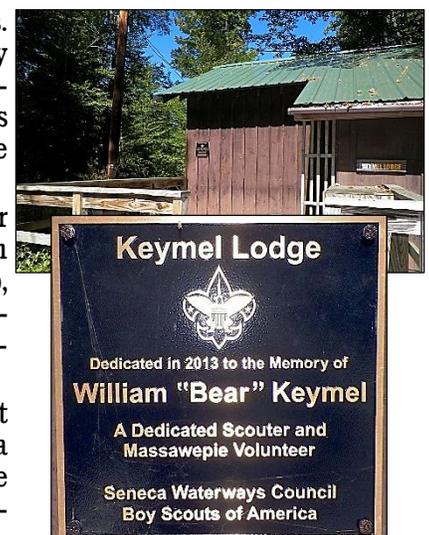
Did you expire recently? Or rather did your MSAA membership expire? If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, your membership has lapsed! Renew now to keep receiving this newsletter, and to continue supporting the future of Massawepie!

Two new members joined the MSAA over the summer:

Dave Cheney serves on the Seneca Waterways Council's professional staff as Program Director. He was the Massawepie Camp Director in 2015 and will be returning in 2016.

Spencer Jones, II, is a student who served on the 2015 Massawepie camp staff in the Scoutcraft department.

Welcome, Dave and Spencer!



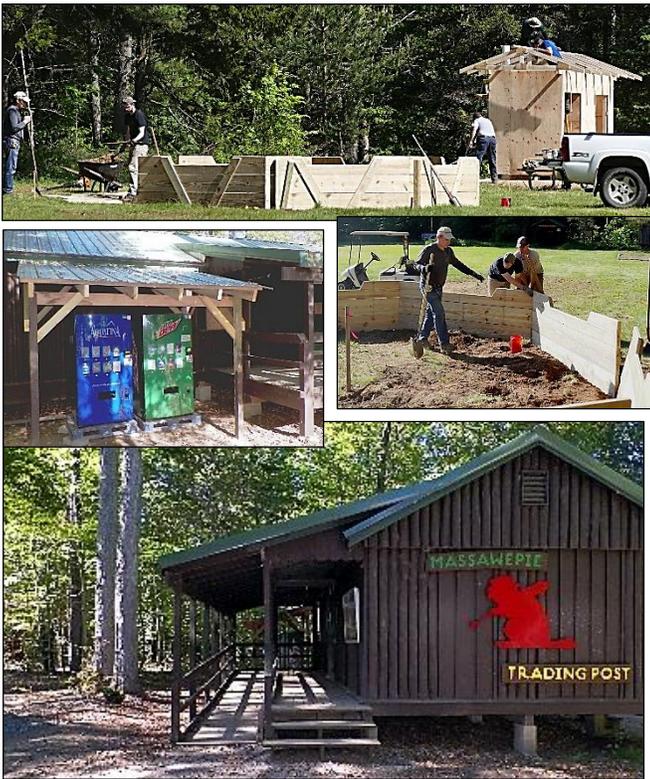
For those who haven't seen it yet, here is Bill's plaque.

MSC 2015 Update

by Dave Cheney and George

Massawepie was very well attended in summer 2015. 1883 youth campers and 610 adult campers from 123 units were at camp over the six-week season. Add over 70 staffers and a busy Trek program and that's a lot of people! While Week 1 (just over 200 campers) and Week 6 (barely over 100 campers) were light, Weeks 2 - 5 were full to overfull. There were three new programs offered to campers. Gaga Pits, [Google "gaga pits" for details.] one in the Sports Field and one near Trailblazers, both constructed during Beaver Weekend, were in constant use during Open Sessions. In an odd coincidence, the Health Lodge was busy treating minor ailments during the same times. Aerial Archery (think skeet with bow & arrow) was a fantastic addition! It was difficult logistically so early on we had only one shooter at a time. But soon we were able to have five simultaneous shooters. The third new program was "log rolling," using an artificial log purchased from BSA. This was also popular until the DOH shut it down during Week 3. We worked with them to resolve objections; the log is a go for 2016. Camp signups for next summer are doing well.

Hiring for 2016 has already begun and we hope to have a full staff by late winter.



A New Look, and New Tech, at the Trading Post by George

An early spring 2015 storm blew down a large tree between the TP and the kitchen storage unit. The tree took some wires with it, making a real mess. Property Superintendent Ben Geiger and his crew went to work. As part of the cleanup, Ben decided to cut down other problem trees in front of and at the vending machine end of the TP. This opened up the area and will prevent future trouble. However, it also removed what little cover there was for the vending machines, often down due to weather related causes. Also, Ben had long been concerned about safety issues involved when large groups of Scouts gathered around the vending machines, blocking a camp road. He found a way to alleviate both problems. During camp, Ben and his ranger crew built a shelter at the closed end of the TP porch, adjacent to the building. They then moved the vending machines under the shelter. Presto! The vending machines are covered and Scouts now have a safe place to use them! But Ben wasn't finished yet. He didn't like the look of the big open wall at the end of the TP, which for years had been the location of two huge neon beacons (read: vending machines). You can see in the photo above how he improved the view!

The TP also benefitted from camp tech upgrades. High speed internet became available and was extended from the ranger residence to the shop. Fiber optic cable was strung to the office, and continued to the TP through a combination of on-ground and buried pipes. The fiber optic cable was connected to equipment installed above the checkout station in the TP. New I-pod register systems were set up for the TP and Big Jakes, both including UPC scanners and receipt printers. The TP system also included a live credit card scanner, with instant credit approval and on-screen signatures. All this was connected by a combination of Bluetooth and wireless internet. Both registers have two-way internet connection with a ShopKeep server, allowing for inventory control, item additions, price changes and more. While most items in Big Jake's have UPC codes on the package, a majority of items in the TP do not. Plans for 2016 include making use of the Dymo Label Printer to print price labels with UPC codes for most of the other items. UPC codes will also need to be made up and added to the inventory spreadsheet uploaded to the server. When completed, this will greatly speed up the checkout process, as well as increase accuracy.



Winter Gathering '16

Save the date! Sunday March 6, 2016 we will gather at 2:00 at Swiftwater Brewing Company in Rochester. They are a nearly 1-year-old farm brewer at the edge of the South Wedge. They offer some great house-brewed beers and other local brews on tap, all rotating regularly. You'll also find a few bottled beers, wines, hard ciders & soft drinks - all from New York State! Swiftwater recently rolled out a pub fare menu with many items featuring house-baked bread! This place is made for MSAA! To quote part of their bottom line, "everyone's invited to get together with old friends, and...make some new ones." How many times have we said that about our gatherings? We will be reaching out to potential "Young Members," inviting them to join us at this event. Bring a friend, young or old, who you'd like to join the MSAA. Complete details, including cost, location directions, and reserving your space, will be sent to regional members in February. This should be another great event!

More Beaver Weekend

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#SWC46Challenge by Mark

WOW! Mountaineer (Yes! Mountaineer!) was the base for the Seneca Waterways Council 46 Peak Challenge. Our goal was to get Scouting representation on all 46 Adirondack High Peaks during Columbus Day Weekend. We hoped to have 175 or 200 participants to give this challenge a chance. When all was said and done we had over 350 participants, and a staff of almost 50, involved in the weekend.

We came close to the goal! By the end of the weekend 44 of the 46 peaks were conquered, some several times over. There were 85+ peak ascents and more than 3,000 miles were hiked! The motto of the event was "safety first, summit second." So the right call was made by the group aiming for the other two peaks to not continue due to safety concerns.

By involving Scouts with social media, we were able to update our Facebook page (46 Peak Challenge) with fresh pictures throughout the weekend. We also tried to do some trending by hitting Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #SWC46Challenge.

Our Alumni did a great job of keeping the staff fed, watered and happy. The crack kitchen team hosted a Sunday evening cookout for everyone who was at the base camp. Later, the Mountaineer dining hall was converted to a theater and had an exclusive showing of the film, "The 46-er." Its director, Blake Cortright, was on hand to answer questions from the audience. A big "Thank You" goes out for all the help from our Alumni and friends. Without you, success would not have been possible. You might recognize some of them in the photos.



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INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Beaver Weekend in Photos!
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- MSAA News & Notes!
- 2016 Winter Gathering Announced!
- Turner Family Trek Center Update!
- And much more!

Visit us at MassStaffAlumni.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!



Photos in this issue by Carol Thiel, George Varga, Guido Verbeck & others.

Go GREEN!

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2016 MSAA EVENTS

March 6...Winter Gathering, Swiftwater Brewing Company,
Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, 2-5pm (see Page 3)

May 20...Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting,
Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC

May 20-22...Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!

June 1-2...Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help
prepare for the weekend projects!

June 3-5...Beaver Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!

June 4...MSAA Annual Meeting, about 8pm, in the Loren
Hakes Campfire Circle or the Dining Hall!

Sept. 24...*TENTATIVE*, MSAA Fall Event