

FALL 2017 BEAVER TALES

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service & Support since 2000!



2017 Annual Meeting and Elections

The 17th MSAA Annual Meeting was held on June 3rd during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie, in the Trailblazers Pavilion at Camp Pioneer. It was opened at 8pm by Chair Mark Pulvino. Attending were 10 MSAA members. Others were still socializing across the road after the Turner Trek Center Dedication, were back working on projects or had to go home early. A moment of silence was observed for members who have passed: Jim Archibald, Rich Marsden and Addy Meyering. The next official order of business was annual elections. Mark first asked for nominations for the open Member at Large slots; there were none. The nominated slate was then unanimously approved (see list at right). Peter Collinge reported that the Association had a balance of \$2,382.57, noting that this was again high. He proposed that we make a \$350 donation to the Square Foot/Yard Fund in memory of Addy Meyering. The donation was unanimously approved. Peter also noted that our "stove drive" this year raised more than goal, as had the Turner campaign (see articles within)! His report was accepted. MSAA members helped organize and run the highly successful Saranac 6 Challenge last October at Massawepie. MSAA members also helped with the MSC Staff Holiday Party in January. Our Winter Gathering in March at Knucklehead Brewery was very successful. There was a brief discussion about 2017-18 events. Attendance at the Fall Clambake continues to decline. It's time for a change; perhaps a wine tasting later in the Fall. The Winter Event at rotating craft breweries has been successful and should continue. We should help with the Camp Staff Holiday Party, but more discussion is needed. The meeting ended at 8:55, followed by the traditional group photo.

Respectfully submitted, *Tim Smith*

CHAIR'S STUMP! As we come to the end of an eventful 2017 and look to the freshness and excitement of the New Year, we need to reflect a bit, and be proud. There has been some incredible cooperation between MSAA members and current/recent staff, which is hard not to get excited about. We've had great success with off-season events at Massawepie. Massawepie Outdoor Challenges on Martin Luther King and Columbus Day weekends have brought excitement and great program to almost 1000 participants over the past few years, due mainly to the combined efforts of alumni and staff.

A huge opportunity for the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association has arisen. We now officially sponsor Massawepie Venture Crew 398 that is made up of current and recent staff members. We see this as an opening to promote longevity on staff, camaraderie throughout the year, and organizational growth.

We need your help! Reach out to friends from staff. Bring them along to an event. To show them what's growing at Massawepie, take a few days, go to camp and help for some or all the time. Bring them to a work weekend. Get to know the current staff and you'll see you see a bit of that spirit alive in them that you had in you when you were on staff. It takes you back, but brings you forward at the same time. You'll be amazed. You can come back.

Mark



Executive Committee

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Treasurer's Report (as of 9/30/17) by Peter

Balance on 12/31/16.....	\$2,269.07	
CATEGORY.....	INCOME ..	EXPENSE
Dues	\$660.00	\$0.00
Administrative (mailing, camp staff holiday party).....	\$0.00	\$192.99
Camp Project (staff cabin stoves)	\$3,975.12	\$3,975.12
Square Foot Endowment Fund	\$2,010.00	\$2,360.00
Social Event (Winter Gathering).....	\$70.00	\$40.00
<u>Memorabilia (patches).....</u>	<u>\$5.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTALS.....	\$6,720.12	\$6,568.11
Balance as of 9/30/17.....		\$2,421.08

Your Association has had a very positive year so far financially. Thanks to our generous members, we collected \$3,975 to replace staff cabin stoves (plus \$350 donated at the end of 2016, for a total of \$4,325). Property Superintendent Ben Geiger got a substantial discount (plus free delivery) by purchasing 8 stoves, spending only \$3,160.96! With the balance he bought a few new heaters for cabins. The MSAA donated \$350 from our treasury for a Square Yard in memory of long-time staffer Addy Meyering, and \$150 toward food for the staff holiday party in January.

Fall '17 Executive Committee Meeting Notes by Tim

The MSAA Executive Committee fall meeting was held on October 12th at the SWC Service Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Mark Pulvino. Attending were: Peter Collinge, Mary Beth Boyle, George Varga, Kathy Elliott and Tim Smith.

Peter gave the treasurer's report and it was approved by the members present. (See above and right for details.) Renewal forms will be sent to lapsed members with the Fall newsletter.

[Editor's Note: a brief meeting was held on August 23rd to discuss the following three items.]

A 2018 donor option was discussed. It was decided that we will raise money to provide more comfortable sleeping for the Summer Staff (see separate article).

The Fall Alumni event will be held on Sunday, October 29th at Lookup Park in Henrietta. Kathy Elliott is Chairing the event and the flyer has been mailed.

The MSAA is now the official Sponsor of Venture Crew #398, Massawepie Staff. The papers have been filed with the Council office and submitted to the National Council. The Crew Advisor is Irene Cheney. Mark Pulvino is the Chartered Organization Representative and several MSAA members are on the Crew Committee.

The Winter Gathering was discussed, and the date was set for Sunday, March 4, 2018. Mary Beth Boyle will research and recommend locations – local breweries/brew pubs.

The Fall newsletter was discussed, article assignments made, and a time-line set.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Thursday January 11, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the SWC Service Center.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

MSAA News & Notes by Peter

MSAA's paid membership:

1/1/17 = 86

7/1/17 = 76

9/30/17 = 83

The year-end number may be higher if more renewals come in. Please recruit a friend; we'd like to break 100 before long!

Has *your* MSAA membership lapsed? It has if you got a renewal form with this newsletter! Renew now to keep getting this newsletter, and to continue supporting Massawepie!

Three members joined the MSAA over the summer:

AJ Heiligman of Webster joined as a Friend of Massawepie.

Ted Klick of Indianapolis worked at the Camp Forester Waterfront in 1974 & 1975. He is a retired BSA professional.

William Oette of Irondequoit worked in the Camp Pioneer Kitchen in 1953.

Welcome All!

Welcome to SWC and Massawepie

by George

Matt Ghirarda has been hired by Seneca Waterways Council as Program Director for the council and Reservation Director for Massawepie. With a mid-November start date, he will bring experience at 3 councils/camps in Maine and Massachusetts. Matt will work closely with Jon Northrup, who returns for a second year as Camp Director, in staff hiring, etc.

Massawepie Square Foot Fund Ends Year Over \$100,000! By Peter

What is "the gift that keeps on giving" for Massawepie? Donations to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund support MSC now and for the future! All funds received are invested, and 5% of the average fund balance is taken out each year to support maintenance and equipment at MSC. Thanks to over \$27,000 raised in 2015 and 2016 through the Turner Trek Center campaign (mostly from Massawepie alumni, thanks!), the balance in this fund has finished the year over \$100,000 for the first time! Here are the details: fund balance on 12/31/15, \$95,395; removed during 2016 for Massawepie, \$3,225; new donations added in 2016, \$19,060; investment gain in 2016, \$7,927; fund balance on 12/31/16, **\$119,157!** Donations can be made to the Fund with your MSAA membership renewal, as a memorial or tribute gift to the Council designated for the Square Foot Fund, from an IRA, or as a designated beneficiary in your will. For information go to www.senecawaterways.org/camp_square. For details, contact the Seneca Waterways Council's Director of Development, Tony Vogl at 585-241-8556 or Tony.Vogl@Scouting.org.

'18 Donor Option: Staff Sleep Comfort *by George*

The original idea was to replace all old mattresses in cabins. But Property Superintendent Ben Geiger has since been promised a donation from Le Moyne College of 25 bunk bed sets and 50 mattresses, all extra-long. This will cover replacement of ALL old bunk, single bed and mattress needs for cabin row *and* Keymel Lodge! So, we shifted focus to other sleep comfort needs. Six double bed sets (mattress & box spring) need replacement. For tabins (staff site, CIT site and tabin row) we'd like to supply 50 4" thick foam mattresses with vinyl covers, plus 50 2'X4'X3/4" plywood bed boards (13 sheets). So, the MSAA Executive Committee has agreed to make staff sleep comfort our donor option project for 2018. Total cost is estimated at between \$6000 and \$7000. Anyone donating \$60 or more to this project will receive a free year of MSAA dues. You'll see this listed on the membership renewal forms in the spring. And optimistically, given the results of the stove and Turner projects, we can reach our goal of \$7000!

MSAA 2017 Fall Event *by George*

A very rainy and cool Sunday afternoon (October 29) at Baldwin Cabin in Henrietta's Lookup Park was the setting. It's a good thing this is a modern, enclosed facility and not an open shelter, or none of us might have been there! As it was, two late cancellations resulted in attendance of 14 members/family. (Two had to leave before photos were taken.) This was a small uptick from Fall Events in recent years.

Beverages were plentiful and included soft drinks, craft beers, wines and hard ciders. Being responsible citizens, most of us tasted something new along with our favorites, but some bottles and cans went home unopened. There was a cornucopia of food and several dessert choices, all delicious, but way too much for the size of the crowd.

Dawn and Shannon Hicks brought a lot of Gary's old Massawepie neckerchiefs and patches, most in pristine collectible condition. They generously encouraged everyone to help themselves.

Conversation and camaraderie were even more abundant than food and drink – a very enjoyable time was had by all!

Special thanks to Kathy Elliott for making cabin arrangements and bringing some decorative touches.



MSAA Winter Gathering 2018 *by Mark*

Save the date!

MSAA will host our annual Winter Gathering on Sunday March 4, 2018 from 2-5pm! Building on our very successful 2014 thru 2017 gatherings, we'll again 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. They can join at the event. And continuing what has become a tradition for this event, we'll be gathering at a local brewery or brewpub. Mary Beth Boyle is researching possibilities (it's a tough job, but someone must do it) and we'll decide in January. Complete details, including cost, location, directions and reservation info, will be sent to regional members in early to mid-February. This should be another great MSAA event!





Beaver Weekend 2017

THANKS!

Thank you for your support this past June. We had a successful weekend getting projects done and feeding all the volunteers. The Culinary Fusion team was on top of their game in the kitchen, as usual. Doris Turner was again on the crew, like old Central days. Dawn and Shannon Hicks were back too. The kitchen was dedicated to Gary Hicks, because we know his spirit will always be amongst us on work weekends.

Alumni were everywhere at Pioneer, very well represented. Everything from trail work to freshening the campfire circle, waterfront set up and roofing was done that weekend. Handicraft had a dropdown windowed front wall constructed for windy days, and there was a bit of painting going on too.

Save the dates of June 1st – 3rd for Beaver Weekend 2018, and bring a friend!

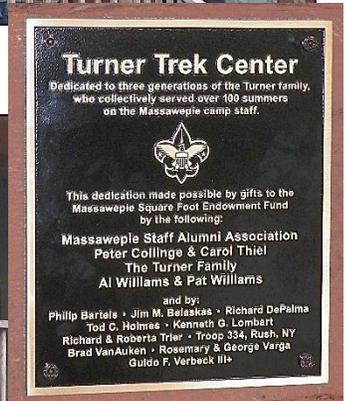


Turner Trek Center Dedication *by Peter*

On Saturday June 3 at Massawepie, after Beaver Weekend dinner, the Trek Center was officially dedicated as the Turner Trek Center. This dedication ceremony culminated two years of fundraising by the MSAA to name the building in honor of the Turner family, who have collectively served over 100 summers on camp staff. Over \$27,900 was raised for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (see Page 2), surpassing the \$25,000 goal.

Mark Pulvino, MSAA Chair, welcomed the dedication crowd which included 20 members of the Doris and Jerry Turner family (9 of whom served on camp staff). Steve Hoitt (SWC Scout Executive) spoke about the importance of Massawepie, the Trek Center's appeal for troops with older Scouts, and the dedication of the Turner family. Dick Trier (Massawepie Reservation Director 1986-89) told entertaining stories about the Turner family at camp in the 1980s, and reminisced about recruiting Doug Turner to direct the Trek Program in 1988, which Doug has done for the past 30 summers! Then Lew Heisman (SWC President) and Doris Turner unveiled the Turner Trek Center plaque, which shows the names of all donors of \$500 or more.

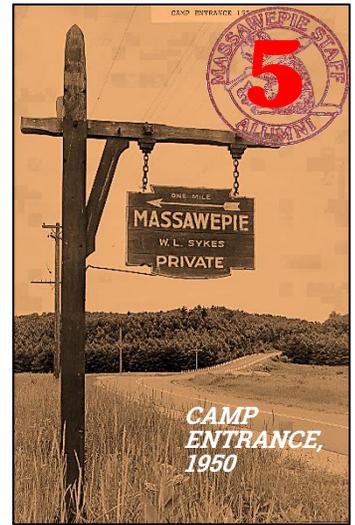
After some group photography and the Alumni Association annual meeting, the evening ended with much socializing in or near camp. Thanks again to all alumni who donated to make this dedication possible! [See Page 5 for more photos.]



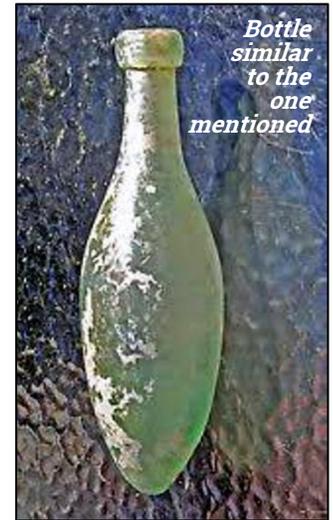
Sykes Family Visit to Massawepie *by Guido*

Sixty-six years ago, Otetiana Council of Rochester (now part of Seneca Waterways Council), BSA purchased Massawepie - lake, ponds, forest and existing buildings - from the Sykes family, who had owned it for several generations. Since then it has become one of the premier Scout camps in the country and a place beloved by tens of thousands who have spent time here.

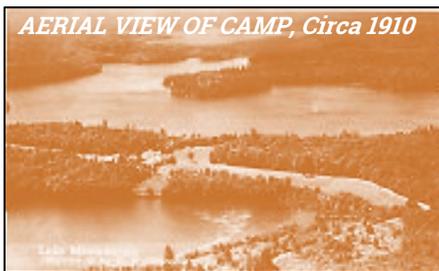
On Saturday August 5, 2017 some 30 members of the Sykes family gathered locally to attend a family funeral and to spend an afternoon at Massawepie. Some of them had spent time here as children in the final years before it was sold, including Ed Dreby and his sisters (who are grandchildren of Mr. William Sykes, original owner of the property), and their nanny who was, at that time, a local high school girl. Other attendees were their children and grandchildren, relatives and friends. For some it was the first time to visit the place that was a major part of their family's history. It was also a reunion for Ed Dreby and our summer camp Chaplain, Guido Verbeck, whose family stayed at a cottage at Massawepie for the final three years before the sale. As boys, they had played, hiked these acres, and swum the lake, together. A tour of the old cottage sites, farm, and hotel buildings (now the area from the waterfront along the edge of the lake to Gannett Lodge) was planned by Freddy Stein, plus time to look at old photographs (many of which are posted on the MSAA website) and share stories at the Campfire Circle. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, resulting in cancelling the walk and moving the gathering to August Lodge. It made little difference as a great time was had by all - memories, laughter, and even a few tears. George Varga opened the Trading Post, gave out souvenir gifts, and chatted with some of our guests. A friend of the family gave George a rare "torpedo" soda bottle (originally from the hotel) which he and Ed had found as kids. George gave it to me and I gave it to the camp. It is now in the camp office. Group photos were taken outside the Trading Post. Then the Sykes group and I travelled into Tupper Lake for a family dinner. One of the stories told was how the sale of the property really happened - there have been several versions over the years. William Sykes had five heirs. Two wanted to sell to the Boy Scouts and two to a developer. Ed Dreby's mother* was the tie breaker and there was no doubt in her mind - the Scouts. The family members had said how glad they were because they knew it would bring great joy to myriad boys over the years. Over dinner another dimension was discussed - how many lives have been changed by the experiences of Scouts and leaders at Massawepie because of the sale - a gift beyond price. We will forever be grateful to the Sykes family for the sale of this property to the Boy Scouts. *Virginia Sykes Dreby, who also was at the Massawepie 50th Anniversary celebration in 2002.



CAMP ENTRANCE, 1950



Bottle similar to the one mentioned



AERIAL VIEW OF CAMP, Circa 1910



WEDDING PARTY OF VIRGINIA SYKES AND EDWIN DREBY III, MASSAWEPIE, 1940



COTTAGE 2, WHERE GUIDO LIVED DURING THOSE SUMMERS



LEFT: Doris, Doug & Laura. CENTER: Most of the Turners who have been on staff over the years. RIGHT: Turner family members gathered at the dedication.





Off-Season Events... Massawepie Outdoor Challenges

The MOC Fall Event – October Odyssey *by Mary Beth*

October Odyssey was the theme of Columbus Day weekend at Massawepie. The weekend was an opportunity chance for troops to have the Massawepie experience in the off-season. Events started at Massawepie's Camp Mountaineer and spread throughout camp and the greater Tupper Lake area. Participants were able to get the full Adirondack Massawepie experience with a variety of scavenger hunt challenges, documented on the Massawepie Outdoor Challenges Facebook page. The hunt led troops through a variety of activities. Some examples include: seeing 5 outposts or ponds of Massawepie, climbing one of the 46 high peaks or the "Tupper Triad" (Mt. Arab, Mt. Coney & Mt. Goodman), catching a fish in Massawepie Lake, and having dinner at a Tupper Lake restaurant. All events, including the Saturday cookout and the Sunday award ceremony, were put together by a staff of volunteers, including a group of MSAA members. One of the biggest successes of the weekend was the number of current camp staff who volunteered; it was the largest group of current camp staff volunteers in Massawepie Fall Outdoor Challenge history! Overall, the weekend was another success for Massawepie Scout Camps. Thank you to all the participants, who made it a memorable weekend! Remember to check out the Facebook page to see all the fun.

MOC is Bringing on the MAC for MLK Weekend! *by Tim*

January 12-15, 2018 (MLK Weekend) the Seneca Waterways Council will conduct the 5th Massawepie Arctic Challenge at the Gannett Lodge at Massawepie. The MSAA is once again supporting the event with some program staff and the cook crew. The theme for 2018 is Winter Olympics. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Mark Pulvino or Tim Smith. Make contact soon; staff "housing" is very limited, unless you want tent it for the weekend.



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!

Go GREEN! Save MSAA (YOUR) \$\$! *by George*

40 members get Beaver Tales via email. A few copies are hand delivered. But we still will spend over \$65 on postage in 2017! My *donated* costs for paper, toner & supplies continue to grow. Many groups will mail only to members without email. We don't want to be that way. Please ASK to get YOUR Beaver Tales and event flyers in pdf format via e-mail. You'll get them sooner and save postage cost. Send your "ask" to: gjvarga@rochester.rr.com. *Thanks!*

2018 MSAA EVENTS

- Jan. 11MSAA Exec. Com. Meeting, 5:30pm, SWC HQ
- Jan. 12-15MOC/MAC, Gannett Lodge, Massawepie
- March 4MSAA Winter Gathering, TBA
- May 11-13Pre-Skills, Massawepie
- May 18Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting - Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC
- May 18-20Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!
- May 30-31Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects!
- June 1-3Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
- June 2MSAA Annual Meeting, ~ 8pm, Massawepie
- June 14-22NER Camp School at Massawepie
- June 24-30Staff Week at Massawepie
- Jul. 1-Aug. 11 ...Weeks One to Six at Massawepie
- Aug. 11-14Camp tear down days, Alumni help welcome
- Oct. 5-8MOC Fall Event, Camp Mountaineer
- Oct. 12-14Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie – come help button up the camp for winter!
- Oct./NovTBA, MSAA Fall Event