

FALL 2019 BEAVER TALES

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service & Support since 2000!



2019 Annual Meeting and Elections

Our 19th Annual meeting was held on Saturday, June 1 in the Pioneer Dining Hall during Beaver Weekend. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Chair Freddy Stein. There were 31 members and guests attending. Freddy noted that the member travelling the farthest was Pierre Loncle from Rifle, Colorado. Present were members who were either a camper or staffer covering 1952 through 2019. The next order of business was the election of officers and members-at-large. The nominated slate was read, and Freddy asked for nominations from the floor. There were none; the slate was unanimously approved. Stephanie VonBacho has stepped down from being a member-at-large. She served for many years, several as Chair. Peter Collinge gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of 5/27/19 was \$1,988.01, with 91 paid members, plus more applications & renewals came in that weekend. Peter reported that Alumni had donated about \$2,705 toward lean-to construction/electricity in the staff site. We also sponsored a Square Yard in memory of former Camp Director Dave Cheney, who passed last December. Reports were given on MSAA support of off-season events at Massawepie, as well as on our Winter and Spring Gatherings. A brief discussion about events in 2019-20 led to no decisions other than that further discussion was needed. Freddy reminded us that in 2020 the MSAA will reach its 20th anniversary and an event will be planned to celebrate. There was then some discussion regarding 3 year and 5 year staff recognitions. We adjourned at 7:45 pm and the traditional group photo was taken. Respectfully Submitted by *Tim Smith*



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The Beaver Call



It's hard to believe another camping season has come to an end. In 2019 the MSAA assisted in two off-season events and at Beaver Weekend. Supporters of the MSAA continue to positively impact the camp that had a profound effect on their lives. Massawepie is a truly incredible place that brings us all together. I encourage you to reach out to others you know who love Massawepie to join the MSAA. It would be tremendous to reach 100 members for our upcoming anniversary! 2020 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Alumni Association. Since 2000 the MSAA has provided support to Massawepie through volunteer work and monetarily assisting the enjoyment of camp by campers and staff. The impact that the MSAA has had on Massawepie is incredible! Next year there will be a celebration to mark this milestone and honor the work we have done over the past twenty years. I thank current and past members of the Association for their efforts to improve and sustain Massawepie. In this issue of Beaver Tales, you will find articles detailing some of our efforts in 2019, and info about events planned for 2020. For 67 years Massawepie has had a profound impact on the lives of so many people. Thanks again for your continued support. I hope to see you at our upcoming events and at Massawepie. Freddy



Treasurer's Report (as of 9/30/19) by Peter

Balance on 12/31/18.....	\$2,024	
CATEGORY.....	INCOME ..	EXPENSE
Dues	\$745.00	\$0.00
Administrative (postage).....	\$0.00	\$42.50
Camp Project (staff site lean-tos).....	\$3,255.00 ..	\$3,255.00
Square Foot Endowment Fund	\$930.00 ..	\$1,280.00
Social Event (Winter & Spring Gatherings).....	\$184.00	\$159.56
Recognition Blankets & Tee Shirts.....	\$0.00	\$700.08
Memorabilia (patches & shirts).....	\$37.00	\$0.00
TOTALS.....	\$5,151.00	\$5,437.14
Balance as of 9/30/19.....		\$1,737

Thanks to the generosity of many MSAA members, we collected \$3255 towards building of (and running power to) the staff site lean-tos (see article on Page 3)! This was the first phase of a project that will realign and bring power to each tabin in the staff site. We also received donations of \$930 to the Square Foot Endowment Fund (see article below), and added \$350 from our treasury to dedicate a Square Yard in memory of 2015-16 Camp Director Dave Cheney. And as part of our newest initiative we spent \$489 to buy custom embroidered fleece blankets (see article on Page 3) for all 2019 staffers with 5 or more years of service, plus \$211.08 for additional 3+ year tee shirts. While our current balance is down to \$1737, we have accomplished a lot! We also have a significant supply of veteran staff recognition shirts and blankets available for the future.

MSAA News & Notes by Peter

MSAA's paid membership:
 11/1/18 = 89 11/15/19 = 92
 The year-end number may be higher if more renewals come in. Please recruit a friend; we're still trying to break 100!
 Six new people have joined: Simon Conrad-Reingold (5th year) and Conor Henrie (3rd year) are both experienced staffers who served again in 2019, Simon as Asst. Health Dir. along with several concurrent part-time positions, while Conor was an Asst. Ranger; Nick Iovine, who was on staff between '03 & '07; Chris and Samantha Bradley, Sam was a staffer between '00 & '08; Dr. Marc Cohen, Chair of Towpath District, received a gift membership from a friend.
 Welcome to ALL!

Meeting notes were edited to fit allowed space. Ed.

Notes from Oct. 1 Executive Committee Meeting by Tim

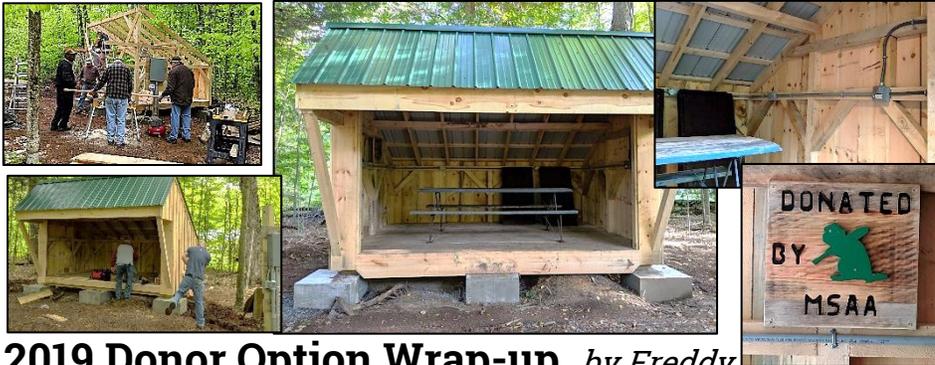
We met at the SWC office. Attending were Freddy, Peter, David, Mark, Kendall, Jon, Mary Beth, Brendan, Tim and George, plus Aaron Vikemyr. Don, Mike and Sean were unable to attend. Brendan reported that attendance at Massawepie was down slightly this year and there were some staffing issues, but the program was well received. Aaron Vikemyr, the new SWC Director of Support Services, led a discussion regarding Crew 398. After an extended discussion it was decided by a 9-1 vote that the MSAA will not re-register as Crew 398 sponsor and will give up "ownership" of the unit number 398. Aaron also introduced the concept of an on-line store for Massawepie staff. Various, but limited, clothing and gear with the Massawepie logo will be available for a limited time. We discussed a Winter Gathering. Jon volunteered to set it up. [See Page 5 for details of the event.] David volunteered to lead a sub-committee for an MSAA 20th Anniversary Celebration. [See article on Page 3.] Freddy, Jon, Mary Beth and Mark volunteered to help. Peter gave the Treasurer's and Membership Reports. [See details above.] Article assignments and scheduling for the Fall issue of Beaver Tales were discussed and made. The next item was the 2020 Donor Option. A decision was reached to support upgrades and improvements in the Staff Lounge. The project advisory committee will be Jon, Sean, Brendan and Mary Beth. [See article on Page 3.] Our next meeting will be Tuesday December 3 at 6:15pm and held at the SWC Office. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Square Foot Endowment Fund Supports Massawepie! by Peter

What is "the gift that keeps on giving" for Massawepie? Donations to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund support the camp now and in 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 Massawepie. Thanks in part to over \$59,000 raised by the MSAA since 2000, the fund now generates over \$4600 each year for the camp. Details: balance 12/31/2017 = \$130,711; removed in 2018 for camp = \$4,642; donations added in 2018 = \$1,855; investment loss in 2018 = \$7,931; balance 12/31/2018 = \$119,993. (So far, it appears the investment loss for 2018 may be recouped due to improved market performance in 2019, though like any investment there will be ups and downs.) Donations to the fund can be made through your MSAA membership renewal, as a memorial or tribute gift to the Council designated to this fund, from an IRA, or as a designated beneficiary in your will. For more information or to discuss details, see senecawaterways.org/square-foot-fund/ or contact Seneca Waterways Council's Director of Development, Tony Vogl, at 855-241-8556 or Tony.Vogl@scouting.org any time.

2020 Donor Option: Staff Lounge *by George*

As we looked for a 2020 Donor Option, we had several choices. Our intention is always to make an impact for the staff, or to a program. We proudly announce that for 2020 the MSAA will fund improvements/upgrades in the Staff Lounge wing of the Health Lodge. Included (but not limited to) are TV set/s, furniture and storage bins/tubs. This will be listed on 2020 MSAA Renewal Forms. As always, donate \$60 to the Donor Option and/or the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund and your one-year renewal is free!



2019 Donor Option Wrap-up *by Freddy*

Thanks to the MSAA, the junior staff site now has two lean-tos with electricity. Funds raised by MSAA member donations, and the labors of members and others made this happen. It was a great success, providing junior staff with lighted, sheltered places to gather, each with outlets to charge their devices.



Veteran Staff Recognition

by Mary Beth

Over the years, Massawepie has been fortunate to have had many dedicated staffers. To acknowledge those veteran staffers the MSAA has begun a recognition program. Starting in 2018 a tee shirt was designed and presented to 29 staffers who had completed three or more years on staff. This summer, six more of those shirts were given to staffers who made it to year three. This year, the MSAA designed a blanket to be presented to staffers who had completed five or more years on staff. Twelve staffers received one of the blankets for their dedication and hard work! As Massawepie continues to thrive due to devoted staffers, it is important to recognize them in return. We look forwards to recognizing many more three and five year staffers in upcoming summers!

Calling for Old Staff Photos *by Peter*

Do you have an old Massawepie staff photo lurking in a box somewhere? Even better, can you also identify some or all of the people in that photo? I've started the process of posting old staff photos on our website, beginning with Central staff at massstaffalumni.org/CentralStaffPhotos.htm. Photos for other camps will be coming soon, but I only have a fraction of those. Here are the ones I currently have:

Pioneer: 1955, '56, '58, '69, '70, 2019*

Mountaineer: 1955, '56, '69, '72, '83, '87, '88*

Voyageur: 1956, '58, '59, '63, '66, '72*

Forester: 1971, '72, '77*, '78*, '80*, '82, '83, '84*, '87

CIT: 1969*, '70S1*, '70S2*, '72S1*, '72S2*, '75, '79S1*, '79S2*, '83

*I also have a key to the names of people in the photo

If you have any others, or if you have (or can reconstruct) a key of the names in those in the photos without asterisks above, please scan and send them to me at collinge@localnet.com, or mail clear copies to 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534. Thanks, and thanks to Mark Kurtz, Ken Lombart, Pat Gleason, & others, who supplied some of the photos listed above!

Summer Camp 2019 Recap

by Brendan



More than 2000 campers from around the world experienced the uniqueness of Massawepie! We are proud of the fact that there were girl campers in every session of 2019, the first year that girls joined the Scouts, BSA program. Many more people experienced Massawepie. We hosted National Camping School in June (as we will in 2020). Camp Pioneer also hosted the 12th Latvian Scout Jamboree during "Week 7," attended by boys & girls aged 8 to 18 (plus leaders) from three countries. The success of the 2019 season was due to an outstanding staff! The 2020 staff is now being hired. As we all know, working a summer at Massawepie is one of the greatest experiences out there. If you know anyone who might be a good staffer, invite them to contact Program Director Matt Thurston at massawepieprogram@gmail.com.

Celebrating 20 Years of the MSAA in 2020!

by David

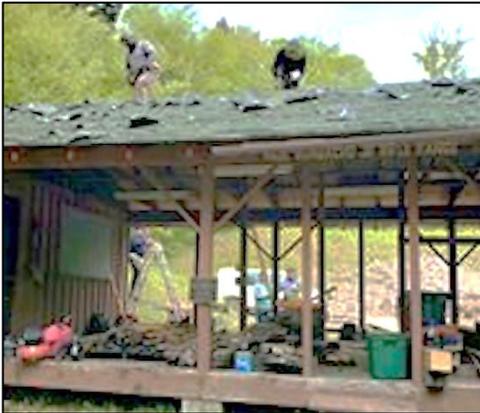
2020 will be the 20th anniversary of the formation of the MSAA, as well as the renovation & reopening of Camp Pioneer. Over these 20 years MSAA members have given thousands of hours of service to the camp. We've donated/raised thousands of dollars for projects ranging from the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle to the Meyer-Rifle Range to staff facility improvements, plus program equipment. And we added thousands of dollars to the endowed Square Foot Fund dedicated to supporting Massawepie capital projects. Your Executive Committee thinks we should celebrate all that we have accomplished in these 20 years. We are considering a sit down dinner with a short program (similar to the Massawepie 55th Anniversary event we led in 2007), to be held in the Rochester area, possibly the weekend of April 25th. But we are open to other ideas. If you have any other ideas, or would like to help in planning for an event, please email me at dlipitt@rochester.rr.com, or email Jon Northrup at northrup.jonathan@gmail.com.



Beaver Weekend 2019

THANKS!

The event was well attended by a wide spectrum of MSAA members from far and near. They came from Colorado, Chicago and Childwold, to name but a few. All converged at Massawepie. Our Culinary Infusion Service Team nourished the volunteers from Friday to Sunday with great food and warm camaraderie. Alumni were all over camp, helping with various projects and tasks from jump starting the waterfront to supporting campsite setup and so much more. Reroofing of the Health Lodge was started. (It was finished during the summer by Ranger staff and volunteers.) One team did a tear-off and put a new metal roof on the VonBacho Rifle Range in Mountaineer. It was especially rewarding to have a few Alumni working on a project they originally helped build while on staff in the mid 1980s. Who knew our names would still be on the plywood we installed over 30 years ago? We recognized and celebrated the arrival of Ranger Ben and Christie at Massawepie 10 years ago. The group photo after our annual meeting was blessed with the fiercest onslaught of mosquitos seen in years!



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Friends...this is my final issue as Editor of Beaver Tales, due to health concerns. I have enjoyed this "labor of love" over the many years, but can no longer do it to my own standards. Pending approval of the Executive Committee, Kendall Smith will become Editor. For the time being, I will remain on the Executive Committee.

George



SAVE THE DATE! Beaver Weekend 2020 - June 5-7

Calling all MSAA members, family, and friends! This event is Massawepie's largest and most important work weekend. Meals and accommodations are provided. For more info, or to volunteer for or suggest a project, contact Ben Geiger, Property Superintendent, at 518-359-3900.

MSAA 2020

Winter Gathering

1:30-5 pm Sunday January 5th



We will gather again at **Radio Social**, 20 Carlson Road (off Blossom Road, in the old Stromberg-Carlson warehouse), Rochester, for an enjoyable afternoon of camaraderie. The focus will be on reliving our time at Massawepie. Please bring photos, memorabilia, memories and friends. We will have tables reserved in the bar area starting at 1:30.

There will be a \$5.00 per person fee (pay Peter Collinge at the event, cash or check) to cover some appies and finger foods to share. They serve other food which you are welcome to buy. The Ophira Middle Eastern fare Sunday menu will be available until 4pm*.

You pay for your own beverages. Radio Social serves wine, cocktails, beer, hard cider, soft drinks and more*.

If you imbibe, please do so sensibly or bring a designated driver.

Bowling and many other games and activities are available (unless reserved); most have fees*.

There is free parking in the lot across Carlson Road from Radio Social.

*For details, plus directions and a map, go to radio-social.com any time.

We hope to see you there! Please invite friends from camp staff who may not be on our list.

Recent/current staffers who join MSAA at this event get a two-year membership for the price of a one-year membership: \$15; save \$10!

If your membership has expired, please join us and renew at the event.

To help with ordering, we **NEED** to know how many will attend.

PLEASE respond NO LATER THAN Sunday December 29th!

We need name/s and number attending.

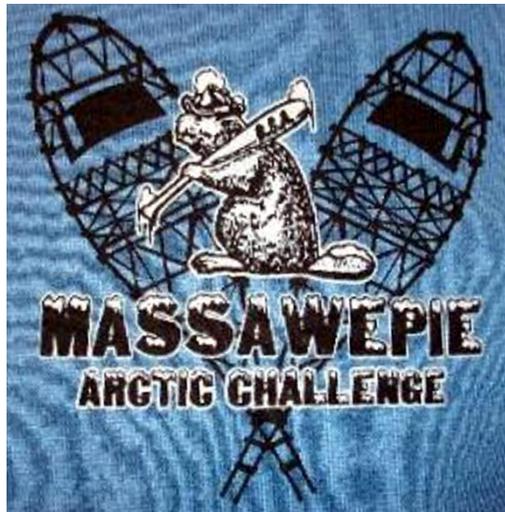
Please respond to Jon Northrup: email northrup.jonathan@gmail.com; text or call 585-354-5003.



Off-Season Events... Massawepie Outdoor Challenges (MOC)

The MOC Fall Event – Peak Weekend *by Brendan*

Several members of the Alumni Association went to Camp Pioneer Columbus Day Weekend (October 11-13) to cook and to provide program and support services for this redesigned event. Five troops used Pioneer as the base camp for wider activities on the reservation and around the Adirondacks. Scouts and leaders explored the Mire, conquered the Tupper Triad or the Saranac Six, and more. The weather was great and foliage change was well under way.



MOC IS BRINGING ON THE MAC FOR MLK WEEKEND! *by Brendan*

The MSAA will also help (kitchen crew and other event staff) at the 7th Annual Massawepie Arctic Challenge MLK weekend, January 17-20, 2020. This frigid weekend will let troops experience camp during the winter and will include outings to Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake plus many activities at camp. Troops can tent in the snow or stay in Keymel or Gannett Lodge, the headquarters for the weekend. It is always a sold out and fun event! Want to help? Contact Brendan Flaherty: brendanflaherty34@gmail.com .

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*

44 members get Beaver Tales & flyers via email. A few are hand delivered. We still spent nearly \$75 on postage in the past year! 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 costs. Send your "ask" to Peter: collinge@localnet.com . *Thanks!*

2020 MSAA EVENTS

- Jan. 5.....MSAA Holiday Gathering, see Page 5
- Jan. 9.....MSAA Exec. Com. Mtg., 6:30pm, SWC Office
- Jan. 17-20.....MOC/MAC, Gannett Lodge, Massawepie
- April?MSAA Spring Gathering, TBA
- May 8-9Pre-Skills, Massawepie
- May 15.....Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting -
Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC
- May 15-17Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!
- June 3-4Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help
prepare for the weekend projects!
- June 5-7...Beaver Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
- June 6MSAA Annual Meeting, ~ 8pm, Massawepie
- June 13-19.....NER Camp School at Massawepie
- June 28-July 4.....Staff Week at Massawepie
- July 5-Aug. 15...Weeks One to Six at Massawepie
- Aug. 15-18.....Camp tear down days, Alumni help welcome
- Oct. 9-12.....MOC Fall Event, Massawepie
- Oct. 16-18.....Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie – come
help button up the camp for winter!