

FALL 2020 BEAVER TALES

Photos by Editor and Others

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service
and Support since 2000!

Thank You to the 2020 Massawepie Staff and volunteers who made this unforgettable summer a success!



“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”

Maya Angelou

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Chair

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Vice-Chair

Jon Northrup

Treasurer

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Massawepie Summer 2020 By Brendan

2020 was certainly not a normal summer at Massawepie, with summer resident camp not operating for the first time in camp history. However, it was still an extremely busy summer, with the summer family camp expanded from post-camp through Labor Day to cover the whole summer and early fall. Over 150 groups, both scout and non-scout, rented campsites, lean-to's and cabins to have awesome Adirondack adventures! Along with that, some much-needed maintenance and projects were completed. This would not have been possible without the hard work of Ben Geiger and his assistant Terry, as well as several volunteers that spent their whole summer at Massawepie: Sean Glenney, Joe Jackson, Guido Verbeck, and Tim Webster. Many other volunteers also spent time up at camp, contributing a total of **over 3,500 hours of volunteer service** throughout the season. Thanks to all that made it possible!

2020 MSAA Annual ZOOM Meeting

To MSAA members and friends: We had planned on having a MSAA 20th anniversary celebration dinner on Saturday evening, November 28. The 2020 MSAA Annual Meeting and Election would have been held in conjunction with that event.

Based on the poll we conducted, we do not have the minimum 25 people to hold the event. As a result, the 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER HAS BEEN indefinitely POSTPONED.

HOWEVER, we will hold the MSAA's ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION by Zoom on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, AT 5:30 PM. We expect the meeting should last no longer than 30 minutes. See Page 2 for the 2020-21 Executive Committee nominees.

After the meeting, at 6 PM, we will open Zoom to all participants who want to socialize after the Annual Meeting and Election is concluded. Further information on joining these calls will be sent the week before the Annual Meeting and Election.



2020-2021 Nominees for the MSAA Executive Committee

The Alumni Association Rules of Operation provide for publication of the names of nominated candidates for officers and at large Executive Committee members in advance of the Annual Meeting (to be held by Zoom on November 28 – see article on first page). The Executive Committee has nominated the following:

Jon Northrup, for Chair
Mary Beth Boyle, for Vice-Chair
Tim Smith, for Secretary
Peter Collinge, for Treasurer
Freddy Stein, for Past Chair
Kendall Smith, for Member at Large
(and Newsletter Editor)
(there is 1 open position)

for Member-at-Large:
Brendan Flaherty
Sean Glenney
Mike Knittel
David Lippitt
Mark Pulvino
George Varga

Has your MSAA membership expired? If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, your membership has lapsed. Renew now to keep receiving this fine newsletter, and to keep supporting the future of Massawepie!

Additional nominations for these positions or for the opening must be submitted in advance of the meeting to Secretary Tim Smith (contact info on Page 1) or another Officer. We need one more Exec. Committee member. Please contact Tim or an Officer if you are interested or know of a good candidate. Officers must be "Staff Alumni" Members of the Association; Members-at-Large can be in the "Friends of Massawepie" membership category.

Reflections from the Chair

It is hard to believe that fall is already upon us and that another summer season has ended. This summer was unlike any summer at Massawepie since it was purchased by Otetiana Council in 1951.

This summer brought family camping to the property, something that would have been like the Sykes family days on the property, who owned it before Otetiana Council. Camp remained busy with many new and veteran campers in attendance. The pandemic has caused many people to become introduced or reacquainted with the enjoyment of the outdoors. It is truly fascinating to see this transformation in our society with renewed appreciation for the wilderness. These feelings are not new to any of us. I think it would be safe to assume that many members of the MSAA gained a true love of the outdoors at Massawepie or while in scouting as a youth or as an adult. This shared experience is one of the things that has kept many of us so connected to Massawepie. For us it is more than a property. It is a place that has worked its way into our lives.

The MSAA was founded 20 years ago and it has remained an integral part of camp since its founding in 2000. For over a year we have been planning a celebration of this milestone, not for the Alumni Association but rather to honor the dedication of the volunteers that have been brought together through the organization. While the celebration has been postponed, we can still acknowledge what the Alumni Association has accomplished. We have raised money, contributed volunteer hours, benefitted the staff and scouts at camp, and maintained the fellowship of staff members and campers. As we celebrate this platinum anniversary I would like to thank all of you for continuing to give back to Massawepie and allowing future generations the ability to gain a love of the outdoors on a property that is truly unparalleled in its beauty and magnificence. *Be well, Freddy*

Treasurer's Report as of 9/30/20 By Peter

Many thanks to our generous MSAA who have donated \$2,995 toward refurbishing the Staff Lounge, located in the former infirmary wing of the Health Lodge. The Staff Lounge is a key area for relaxation, especially for junior staff who can't often leave camp. (Unlike many years ago, they are not allowed to travel in senior staff's cars. There are camp vans that generally go to a town during the weekend day off, but there is not enough room for all junior staff. Junior staff at Camps Cutler and Babcock-Hovey often go home on their days off, but that's obviously fairly rare from Massawepie.) Work on this project got off to a slow start due to the pandemic, but should be done before the 2021 summer camp season. We've also received donations of \$2,080 so far in 2020 to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (see separate article).



Harold, Conor, and Kendall installed durable vinyl "wood-look" flooring in the rejuvenated Staff Lounge on Fall Skills Weekend 2020!

Category	2020 Income	2020 Expense
Dues	\$665.00	
Administrative Expenses (mailing, camp staff party)		\$27.50
Camp Project (Staff lounge improvements)	\$2,995.00	\$2,995.00
Square Foot Endowment Fund	\$2,080.01	\$2,080.01
Social Event (Winter event)	\$70.00	\$37.80
Totals	\$5,810.01	\$5,140.31



Exec. Comm. Meeting Notes By Tim

Meeting notes were edited to fit available space – Kendall

June 24, 2020

Zoom Meeting. Attending were Peter, Mary Beth, Brendan, David, Kendall, Jon, Tim and Freddy. Don, Sean, Mike, Mark and George were unable to participate.

Freddy noted the postponed Beaver Weekend, if it were held, would have been unlike any other previous ones due to COVID. The MSAA Annual Meeting has been historically held on Saturday evening of Beaver Weekend. There was a discussion as to when the annual meeting will be held. The By-Laws only stipulate that there needs to be an annual meeting. It was decided that the Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the MSAA's 20th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 11/28.

David confirmed that the MSAA's 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Irondequoit Country Club. It was proposed that the 2020 Senior Camp staff (18 years and up) be offered a free one-year membership in compensation of missing a full summer. The proposal was approved by unanimous vote of those in attendance. The offer is only for new memberships.

Peter reported that \$2,420 had been raised for the 2020 Fundraising initiative to update the Staff Lounge. He also mentioned that there were upgrades being made to the Health Lodge. He suggested that some of the money donated for the Staff Lounge could be used to help offset the Health Lodge upgrades as there are no capital funds available. He said that we would need to get donor approval to do this and was willing to contact the donors. The Staff Lounge project could be a multi-year initiative.

Peter gave the Treasurer's report. As of 6/18/20 we have a balance of \$2,136 and 95 paid members.

September 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting. Attending were Peter, Mary Beth, Brendan, David, Mike, Kendall, Jon, Mark, Tim, and Freddy. Don, Sean and George were unable to participate.

The only agenda item was to discuss whether to hold the 20th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 11/28 at the Irondequoit Country Club and as Chair, David led the discussion. He reported that the ICC has maximum number of 50 people, due to COVID, with a minimum of 25. There was a discussion as to how comfortable everyone would be holding an event. David agreed to contact the ICC to clarify details.

September 16, 2020

Zoom Meeting. Attending were Peter, Mary Beth, Brendan, David, Mike, Kendall, Jon, Mark, Tim, and Freddy. Don, Sean and George were unable to participate.

The only agenda item was to discuss whether to hold the 20th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 11/28 at the ICC. After discussion, David agree to compose a straw poll to be sent to MSAA members explaining what the parameters were if an event were to occur, and whether they would likely attend (no commitment).

October 7, 2020

Zoom Meeting. Attending were Peter, Mary Beth, Brendan, David, Mike, Kendall, Jon, Mark, Tim, and Freddy. The results of the straw poll were that 16 people responded that they would attend. After discussion it was decided to postpone the 20th Anniversary until a date sometime in 2021.

The MSAA Annual meeting will be held as a virtual meeting on November 28th at 5:30pm. Info will be sent via e-mail. David agreed to compose the notification to be sent which will include the Slate of Officers and Members-at-Large as published in the Spring 2020 Beaver Tales. Peter suggested that the 2020 Camp Staff be offered a 2-year membership for the price of 1 year.

Scouter Gone Home: Gael Roberts 1946 – 2020

My guide and friend walked her final trail in July.

Gael embodied Scouting for over 33 years. She, as with many of us, started Scouting with her boys. She worked with them in Pack 128 and moved with them to Troop 401. AND, she volunteered in District and Council events. She earned her Wood Badge beads and was awarded the Silver Beaver.

When her boys left the Troop Gael and Phil joined each other in volunteer efforts, finally landing at Massawepie. Along with volunteer work Gael and Phil worked on Camp staff for 5 years, Gael as Business Manager and Phil as a Merit Badge Counselor.

Gael and Phil attended Beaver Weekends, often leading crews on needed projects. Together they were caretakers of Wellington and did Post Camp Inspections for many years. She also joined a Campmaster Crew at Cutler in 1993, where she served for 27 years. Gael is and will be missed – **Rosemary & Phil**



Massawepie History Website Updates By Peter

The Alumni Association's Massawepie History Website now has a collection of staff photos from all four Massawepie camps plus Central posted at <http://massstaffalumni.org/Photos.htm>. CIT and Trek staff photos will be added in coming months. Is your photo there?

If you can add any photos to those posted, please scan and send them to Peter Collinge at collinge@localnet.com, or mail clear copies to Peter at 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534. Information on missing names from the photo keys will also be appreciated. And thanks to the many former staffers who have supplied some of these photos – you know who you are!

Member News By Peter

As of October 16, the Alumni Association has 87 paid members. Please encourage a friend to join – we're still trying to hit the 100-member mark!

Two new members joined the MSAA since Spring:

- Jonathan S. Northrup, who served on the Voyageur staff in 1973-74 and the Forester staff in 1975-76. He is also the father of Jonathan T. Northrup who served on camp staff in recent years, including as Camp Director in 2017-18.
- Carl Stephan, who served on the Mountaineer Scoutcraft staff in 1966, as Pioneer Assistant Chef in 1967, and Central Sailing Base Instructor in 1969. He was also a Highlander Scoutmaster in 1968 and 1972-74.

Welcome, Jonathan and Carl! This summer, Alumni Association member Matt Thurston served as co-Program Director for the Seneca Waterways Council's online Boy Scout summer camp, Camp Racdeever. Also, let's belatedly mention that Alumni Association Executive Committee member Brendan Flaherty is now employed by Seneca Waterways Council as the Bay Waters District Executive.

Scouter Gone Home: Carl Zhan

From Oscar Lewis – Carl Zhan passed on Sept. 5, 2020 – Carl had been helping our rangers and camp for over thirty years that I know of (maybe longer). He owned the camp at the end of the dump road (Russell Rd). His sons Bill and Gary (Gary lives in Childwold) have volunteered on work weekends as well.

From Ben Geiger – He was an amazing man, volunteer, and friend of the camp. He will be greatly missed.

Preparing for Summer 2021! By Matt Thurston (Program Director)

While we were unable to host traditional summer camp in 2020, we are already gearing up for summer 2021! Council Program Director Kate Merritt will serve as Camp Director, and Matt Thurston and Jacob Emery will return as Program Director and Senior Commissioner, respectively. Ian Craig, formerly the Trek Director at Sabattis Adventure Camp, will serve as Director of the Adirondack Trek Center. The search for 2021 staff has already started! As you well know, working a summer at Massawepie is one of the greatest experiences someone can have. If you know of anyone who you think would be a good fit for the staff, encourage them to apply and contact the Program Director at matthew.thurston@scouting.org.

There is still of course, a lot of uncertainty, but our leadership team is committed to running resident summer camp in 2021. If you are interested in participating in discussions about preparation for this season, including operational changes for risk mitigation, or if you have expertise in critical program areas (Aquatics, Cope & Climbing, Shooting Sports, Scoutcraft), please consider contacting Kathy Elliot (kathy.elliott@wegmans.com) about joining the Program Committee. Thank you all for your continued interest and support of our Camping Program.

Feel free to reach out if you have any comments or article requests! I am always open to anyone who has a story to share about the MSAA. Kendall

For important MSAA scheduling updates, please visit MassStaffAlumni.org!



Oct. 2020, Photo: Alex Oliveri



New coat of epoxy for the Pioneer Water Tower by Harold & Paul in Sept 2020!



Fall Peak 2020, Photo: Kendall

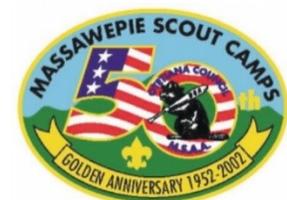
Square Foot Endowment Fund Supports Massawepie! By Peter

Why would someone donate \$50 to dedicate a square foot (or \$350 for a square yard) of Massawepie? Donations to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund support Massawepie 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 Massawepie.

Thanks in part to over \$62,000 raised by the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association since 2000, the Square Foot Fund now generates over \$4800 each year for Massawepie. Details are as follows:

Dec., 2018 Fund Balance	\$119,993
Removed during 2019 for Massawepie-	\$4,816
New donations added in 2019	+ \$1,675
Investment gain in 2019	+ \$19,100
	=====
Dec., 2019 Fund Balance	\$135,952

Donations can be made to the Square Foot fund with your Alumni Association membership renewal, as a memorial or tribute gift to the Seneca Waterways Council designated for the Square Foot 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 the Council's Director of Development, Tony Vogl at 585-241-8556 or Tony.Vogl@Scouting.org.



Celebrating 20 years of Spirit, Service and Support

Massawepie Staff Alumni Association



White Trail Bridge, Beaver Wknd 2014

History of the MSAA By Peter

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association was founded in 2000, growing out of suggestions from several former staffers who knew of alumni associations at other Scout camps. After some preparatory planning, the first membership meeting was held at Beaver Weekend in 2000. Kathy Hakes Elliott was chosen as the first president (now called chair). The association's first project was to raise funds for, and help to construct, the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle in the "new" Camp Pioneer that opened in 2000.

The MSAA's next major project was organizing the 50th anniversary celebration for Massawepie, which included activities for campers during the 2002 summer camp season, and culminated with a celebration gathering of alumni and friends at camp on August 3, 2002. Since then, the MSAA has provided "Spirit" (many alumni and staff gatherings), "Service" (plenty of alumni helping at each Beaver Weekend and other times throughout the year), and "Support" (raised funds for kayaks, bikes, staff tents and bunks, washers & dryers & stoves, the Meyering Rifle Range, the Turner Trek Center, and the Massawepie Outlet trail bridge) for Massawepie.

Twenty years has gone by quickly; the Alumni Association will continue to help make Massawepie available for Scouts of the future. Save some time in the summer of 2027 for Massawepie's 75th anniversary celebration, hosted by the MSAA!



Fall Clambake, September 2008



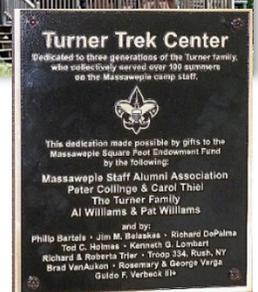
Turner Trek Center, Beaver Wknd 2017



Beaver Weekend, 2002



← Two of our youngest Alumni, Abigail & Bradley Geiger, enjoying a spring snowfall in May 2020!



Creation of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association By David

A number of people had talked in the late 1990s about creating a Massawepie Staff Alumni Association, including myself, Peter Collinge and Kathy Elliott. However, getting staff lists and contacting former staffers was a big challenge.

For several years in the 90s my wife (Amy) and I hosted the Kurtz siblings (Mark, Sherry and Eileen) for a fall weekend at our house. I and the three Kurtz's had all worked multiple years on staff (where I met them), and they all were living in the Adirondack area. Much of the talk on those weekends was naturally about Massawepie.

In the fall of 1999, we booked a dinner cruise on the Colonial Belle for all of us, and various mutual friends - all with Massawepie connections. The evening was filled with talk of Massawepie and adult beverages.

Our discussions turned to the difficulty of getting staff lists and contacting former staffers to start an Alumni Association. Whether it was the adult beverages, and/or something else, Kathy Elliott volunteered that she had many years of staff lists and would be glad to start contacting people.

And after the adult beverages wore off, Kathy was true to her word. She started contacting former staff from her lists and we soon had over 40 members.

In early 2000, a small group started working on the details. An Executive Committee was selected, with Kathy being the first President. A mailing was sent out, Peter Collinge developed the MSAA's Rules of Operation and our website, and plans were made for the first Beaver Weekend member meeting (actually more of a get-together to discuss the Association and its activities). The rest, as they say, is history.



Clams?? I thought YOU brought the clams!

Massawepie: The impact of the “Wood Smoke” By Tim

My introduction to Massawepie happened in the summer of 1952 when I was three years old. My father and brother attended Massawepie the inaugural summer as members of troop 56. My mother, my two older sisters and I stayed in a cabin at the entrance to camp on Rte. 3 on Catamount Pond. I am told that these may be the cabins that are behind Dumas's (Thirsty Moose or “OPD”). This began my 68-year bond with camp. My brother went on to serve on the staff at Mountaineer in 1957 and 58 and the Central staff in 1959. The mystique that was the Adirondacks was ingrained in me. I remember vividly the camp promotion films of the new camp(s) and the anticipation of when I crossed over from Cub Scouts so that I too could walk the trails.

In 1960, I crossed over from Pack 81 to Troop 56 at the end of May and immediately registered for Camp. I went to Mountaineer for Period three and the connection was permanent. As I look back, I know that it rained and it was buggy. I remember the magic of the lake and bog, earning merit badges, camping at the outposts at Four Points, Vingo, Horseshoe Pond, and hiking the White Trail. While I only went to Camp for three years as a youth, I learned skills for living and values that would last throughout my life.

In February of 1977, I resigned from the Eastman Kodak Company and joined the staff at the Otetiana Council as an Associate District Executive. The first weekend in June that year I was reintroduced to the magic as I attended my first Beaver Weekend. Since then I have gone to Camp every chance I had. I served as a food service assistant (schlepped food to Forester and Mountaineer) for Dick Trier, was a provisional Scoutmaster at Mountaineer, an Assistant Camp Director at Mountaineer in 1980 and on the Central Camp staff 1982-83 as Director of Food Service. I have been a member of a cook crew for Beaver Weekend 23 times since 1981 and for fall and winter weekend challenges since 2014.

I retired from the BSA at the end of 2011, but I still make it back to Camp three times most years. The magic is still there. When I see a whole new group of Scouts introduced to the magic of the Lake and bog each year, I know that the tradition will live on after us. I recently talked with several people who had attended Massawepie as campers and staff and we all spoke of the “smell of the wood smoke” and the impact it continues to have on us.



Tim, October 2020



Forester Commissary & Trading Post, 1990

Keeping it in the Family By Mary Beth

My first time going up to Massawepie was summer of 1998. My Dad had started working for Otetiana Council during the previous fall and part of his duties included helping with the shutdown of the Trading Post. As a kid, I learned to live for the days we went to camp. It meant days of boating, hiking, and some general sibling shenanigans followed by nights of board games, family jokes, and some intense puzzling sessions.

As I got a little older, my Dad recruited me to help in the Trading Post. I thought it was cool to get a view of the inner workings of camp. By then, my older brother was old enough to go up to Massawepie with his troop and I was incredibly jealous to say the least. I was captivated by the stories he would come back and tell me of the activities he did, the campfire skits he saw, and the outrageous dining hall songs he learned. I loved being able to help during shut down, as I felt it was my chance to finally be able to participate in the camp I had come to love.

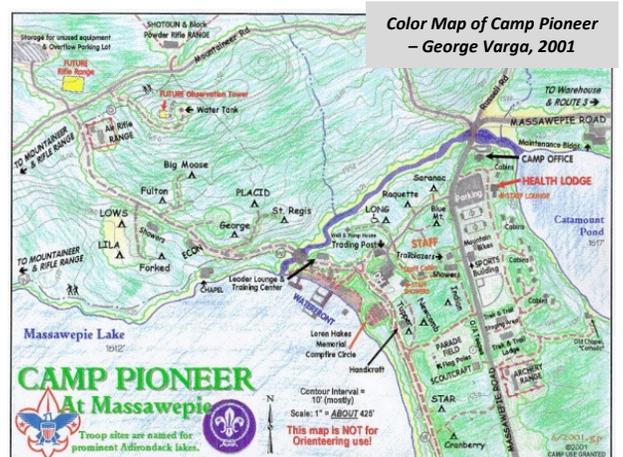
As I became a young adult (and truly listened to the stories my Dad told me), I came to understand that his own camp connection was so much deeper than the summer of 1998. He had worked on camp staff for several summers during his college years. It was then that I made the ultimate decision that I wanted to be an official Massawepie staff member too.

Looking back now, I can truly say working at Massawepie was one of the best decisions I have ever made. During my seven summers there, I developed the work ethic I'm proud to have today. Being a staff member helped to solidify my sense of leadership and accountability. More importantly though, I made countless friends that I hold dear today and was able to help continue my family's legacy. During my staff years, my younger brother came to camp with his troop and I was able to participate in his camp experience. This time, I was able to lead him in the dining hall songs and see his love for camp grow.

For me, Massawepie means so much more than a summer camp. It means home, it means love, it means comfort. For me, it means my family.



2017 Winter Social Gathering, Photo: Mark



Color Map of Camp Pioneer
– George Varga, 2001