

SPRING 2014 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the **Massawepie Staff Alumni Association**

Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!



Celebrating 63 Years of Scout Camping...
Massawepie Scout Camps, Since 1952!

Notice of MSAA Annual Meeting: May 31, 2014

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's 2014 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie on Saturday, May 31, following the evening meal. We'll meet in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle unless the weather keeps us in the Pioneer Dining Hall. Under our Rules of Operation, elections will be held for officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. (See the Page 2 article about nominations.) Reports of 2013-14 activities will be shared, along with plans for the rest of 2014. Ideas for the future role of the MSAA at camp, and for how to grow our organization with staff and former staff who are younger, are solicited. Come share your ideas and hear from others, as part of the fun and service of Beaver Weekend! The closing activity will be the traditional group photo shoot! Some members will then return to projects (while some never left them). Socializing will continue, as always, at one or more locations in the greater Childwold/Gale area.

Beaver Workend is May 30-June 1 *by Mark*

This is the most important work weekend for Massawepie! The Properties Committee calls them workends. There are many projects to do and your help is needed to complete them. Meals and a place to sleep are furnished. Let us know when you'll be there (you can come a day or two early - Pre-Beaver Days) and how many will be in your group. Contact me: e-mail mpulvino@rochester.rr.com or call 585-645-5421. I'll send the info to Property Superintendent Ben Geiger, coordinator of projects and housing.

Here are the MSAA focuses: campsite set up (most attendees will be asked to devote some time to this critical task - no special skills needed); remove rotten benches at the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle, set and level new benches (cut last fall), add mulch as needed, plus general clean-up; Culinary Infusion Services Team (kitchen crew); finish Outlet Bridge Construction project (our 2014 Donor Option project - see update inside); and of course, focus on other focuses of the Property Committee. A more complete list of projects is on Page 3 - there is something for everyone. But it is an ambitious list and will take the efforts of many volunteers to complete every project! Your participation (*along with anyone you can recruit to help*) is more important than ever!

Join us in this 63rd year of Scout camping! It's a super opportunity to give back to Massawepie, meet new friends and see some old ones. I look forward to seeing YOU!



I hope this finds everyone finally enjoying the spring weather that has been so elusive this year. I am sure that Ben has been hard at work getting camp ready for work weekends and for the Scouts this summer. With spring of course, comes the work weekends and the fellowship that accompanies these events. I hope one and all will help as much as possible. Have a great summer and get to Massawepie as often as you can. Happy camping to all!

Executive Committee

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Erin Burruto
eburruto@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Open

Treasurer

Peter Collinge

Secretary

Joe Varga
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Past Chair

Gary Hicks

Member at Large &

Webmaster

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Rob Cunningham
Sean Glenney
Mike Knittel
David Lippitt
Mark Pulvino
Stephanie VonBacho

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MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org

2014-2015 Nominees for the MSAA Executive Committee

The Alumni Association Rules of Operation provide for advance publication of the names of candidates for officers and at large Executive Committee members nominated in advance of the Annual Meeting (held on Beaver Weekend). The Executive Committee (via e-mail) has nominated the following:

George Varga, for Chair, one-year term, (B.T. Editor)

Mark Pulvino, for Vice-Chair

Joe Varga, for Secretary

Peter Collinge, for Treasurer

Erin Burruto, for Past Chair

for Member at Large:

Rob Cunningham

Sean Glenney

Gary Hicks

Mike Knittel

David Lippitt

Stephanie VonBacho

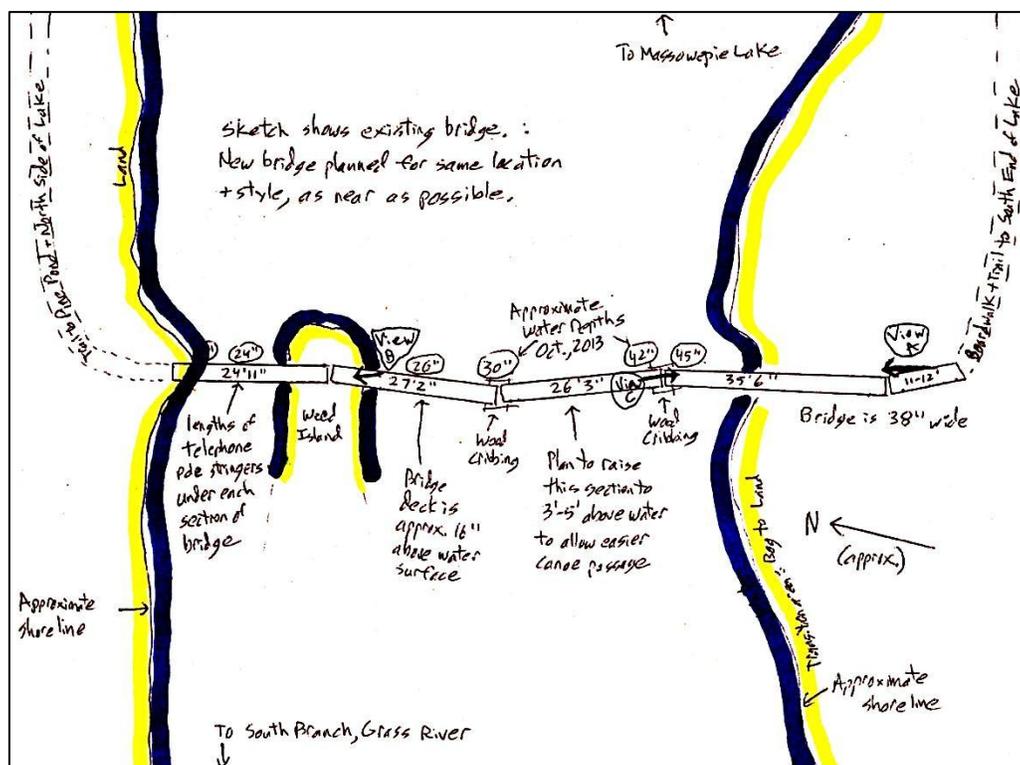
Additional nominations for these positions or for the openings must be submitted in advance of the meeting to Secretary Joe Varga (contact info on Page 1) or another Officer. We *need* new Executive Committee members! Please contact Joe or one of the other officers if you are interested in joining us, or know of a good candidate. We especially need younger members on the committee (and the Association in general), but welcome anyone willing to serve, including new MSAA members.

Update on Outlet Bridge Replacement Project, the MSAA 2014 Donor Option Fundraiser *by George*

The permit from the NYS DEC is in hand! The only hitch is that we must install silt screen/fabric to keep any disturbed silt from moving to the South Branch of the Grass River during the project. Apparently the DEC didn't think that the beaver dams in the outlet stream would serve this purpose. No other agencies, including the APA, will require a permit for our project.

Poles were bid out and have been ordered. Lumber and hardware have been ordered. Needed tools and equipment (and the silt screening) are being gathered. The "party boat" is being rigged as a materials transport and work platform. (Sketches here & on Pg. 3 are by & from Peter.)

A plan of action is in place. During Pre-Skills Weekend (May 9-11) we hope to get all construction materials and some equipment to the site. We also hope to at least start demolition of the old bridge. It is planned that during Pre-Beaver Days and Beaver Weekend (May 26-June/1) to get anything else needed to the site, complete demolition if needed, fully construct the new bridge and remove all demo and construction debris. This is all dependent on (to Page 3, top)



Membership Renewal Info

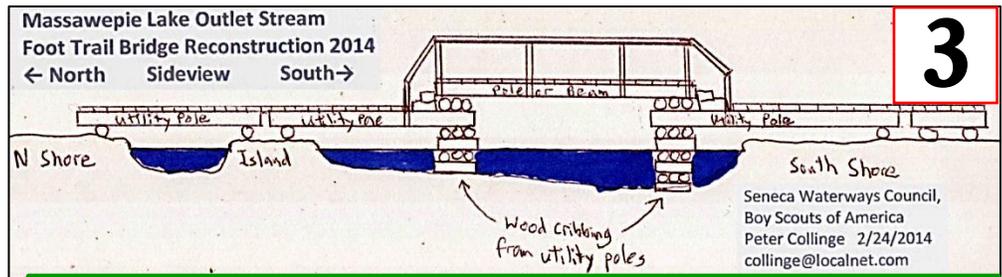
by Peter

Please check the enclosed (or attached) Membership Renewal Form (pink = expired, yellow = expiring 2014, green = expiring 2015 or later). If it is pink or yellow, please renew NOW - we don't want to lose a valuable member like you and you surely don't want repeated reminders to renew. Just send \$15 for one year, or \$25 for two years, or a \$60 donation (which will include a free one-year membership) to the return address shown on the form. Donations can be either to the 2014 Donor Option or to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund, or any combination of the two. Keep your membership up-to-date, help Massawepie, and keep receiving this fine newsletter during 2014 and beyond. Even if not renewing this year please return the form if you need to update your address, phone number, e-mail or other information, *OR to make a donation*. And speaking of membership, please ask a friend to join the MSAA!

(from Page 2)

enough volunteers being there and the weather cooperating.

If you can't get to Massawepie to help with this project (and even if you can for that matter), please consider a financial donation. This is even more important now, since materials costs are a bit higher than expected (and budgeted). Since this project is the 2014 MSAA Donor Option Fundraiser, a donation of \$60 or more will earn you a complimentary one-year membership or renewal in the MSAA. A major donation (say \$5,000 to \$10,000) could possibly earn naming rights to the bridge.



MSAA News & Notes by Peter

Debra Salmon (Central Office, 1981-83) is now the Development Director for The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. Congrats Deb!

Volunteers are needed Skills Weekend (May 16-18) to help clear and prune the 15+ miles of trails at Massawepie. While rebuilding the outlet bridge is vital to trail use, so is having the trails clear. In recent years the trail crew has consisted of my wife Carol and I, and we need help! Food and "rustic" lodging is furnished. Contact Peter: collinge@localnet.com or 585-334-4132.

Beaver Weekend Projects by George

Projects of special interest to MSAA, as mentioned elsewhere, are the Outlet Bridge construction and the Campfire Circle benches. But there is a long, ambitious list (below, not complete by any means) requiring many volunteers, including you!

Two renovations are on the list. Cabin MC-14 needs a new bathroom, including replacing the rotting floor. The room will be gutted and all fixtures and the water heater will be replaced with new. The Staff/Adult Shower House near the Dining Hall needs a lot. Toilets, the urinal and some doors including jambs will be replaced. And in addition to plumbers and carpenters, we'll need electricians, painters, tree trimmers, and possibly roofers if there is enough money in the budget to put on a metal roof.

Several construction teams are needed. In the shop, 48 new tent platforms and yokes will be built. Two more tabin frames will be built in the staff site. Latrines (like the one by the main parking lot) will be built in Cranberry A & B campsites, materials and plans furnished by the Ranger.

Among the general tasks are: assemble 5 picnic tables and organize nuts & bolts in the shop; put leather on oars and match them up; waterfront set up, including placing 15 new cement filled 5-gallon buckets to anchor the floating dock; spray clear finish on the ECON and Trek Center decks with the power sprayer; remove the old cooler from Gannett; cut down and remove hazardous trees from campsites; take tarps, tents, mattresses and new platforms and yokes to campsites, and campsite set up (after tree work is done in some); general camp and building cleanup.

Camp '14 Update by Ed

We are off to great start for 2014 season! Camper sign-ups are up slightly from 2013; I look forward to a really wonderful summer!

Staff hiring is progressing well. Jon Northrup is returning as the Program Director, working on getting a great program together. Other returning staff includes Christelee Geiger as Business Manager, Sean Glenney as Health Officer, and Dave Tuper as the Shooting Sports Director. Two returning staff members are moving into new positions. Mary Beth Boyle is taking on the challenge of Assistant Program Director. And with the "retirement" of our Steward, Mark Mancini, at the end of last season, Cody Jenne (Mark's assistant for the past two years) has stepped up to fill some really big shoes.

We still have a few major openings. Needed are: Assistant Commissioners, a COPE Director, an Assistant COPE Director, and a Trail Blazers Director. If you, or someone you know, is interested please email me at etheetge@scouting.org as soon as you can. All of these positions pay fairly well.

A new program area is opening this summer, at Gannett Lodge. We will offer several "new to Massawepie" merit badges there: Photography, Journalism, Fingerprinting, Scouting Heritage (new to BSA), and Bugling, as well as moving Music and Theater to Gannett. Other new merit badges will be Collections and Athletics.



Another New Event at MSC by George

The First Annual Massawepie Adirondack Challenge Winter Survival Event, held over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend in January, was an overwhelming success!

In an effort to continue increasing off-season use of Massawepie, Ben Geiger, Don DeClerck and Phil Roberts are planning and putting a staff together for this new event. The Fishing Derby is scheduled for September 19 to 21, 2014. Watch for details!

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Visit us at masstaffalumni.org

TO:

Save the Date!

Our annual Fall Family Picnic has been scheduled. As in recent years, we'll do just clams. Attendees will bring their choice of a dish to pass. Full details will be sent to regional members in early September. But mark your calendars now with *Saturday September 27th* as the date and West Area Shelter at Powder Mills Park as the place.

Go GREEN! Get Your Copy of Beaver Tales via E-mail!

The Executive Committee (12+) and 31 other members now get Beaver Tales via e-mail. Five or more copies are hand delivered. At current postal rates, we save over \$23 an issue; more than \$70/year! Help save even more. Get Beaver Tales in pdf format via e-mail. You'll get it sooner **AND in color!** All mailed copies are done on my laser printer instead of my color ink jet printer, to save my donated time & expense. Send your request to me at: gjvarga@rochester.rr.com . Thanks!



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2014 EVENTS

May 16Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting,
Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC

May 16-18...Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni welcome - skill or no skill!
Trail clearing volunteers needed, contact Peter.

May 27-29...Pre-Beaver Days - come early - help
prepare for the weekend projects!
*Outlet Bridge Project (see article within)

May 30 - June 1...Beaver Weekend at Massawepie -
ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
*Outlet Bridge Project (see article within)

May 31.....MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver
Weekend dinner, in the Loren Hakes
Campfire Circle or the Dining Hall!

September 27...Annual Fall Family Picnic & Clams