

BEAVER TALES

SPRING 2018

Newsletter of the **Massawepie Staff Alumni Association**

Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!



Notice of MSAA Annual Meeting June 2, 2018

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association 2018 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie at 8:00pm on Saturday, June 2. We'll meet at the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle unless weather forces us into the 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 nominations article.) Reports of 2017-18 activities will be shared, along with plans for the rest of 2018. Suggestions for a new Fall social event will be discussed. 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 others, as part of the fun and service of Beaver Weekend! The closing activity will be the traditional group photo shoot! Some members may then return to projects (while some never left them). Socializing may continue, as always, at one or more sites in the greater Childwold/Gale area.

Executive Committee

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Vice-Chair

Sean Glenney

Treasurer

Peter Collinge

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Mike Knittel
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Beaver Weekend 2018 is June 1-3! By Mark

While the MSAA Annual Meeting is important, the prime objective is projects. There are many to be done and we need your help! The Association will focus on: Culinary Infusion Services (kitchen crew), waterfront setup, Loren Hakes Campfire Circle cleanup, and a yet-to-be-decided special MSAA project. See Page 3 for a more complete list of projects – there is something for everyone. Plan on joining us for Beaver Weekend in this 67th year of Massawepie, even if it's been awhile, or you never have. It's a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones! Let me know if you'll be there, and how many are in your group. Contact info is above right.

CHAIR'S STUMP As my second tenure as Chair of the MSAA comes to an end, I look forward to new beginnings. New beginnings for some great Alumni who will step into new roles with our group, and lead us into a new decade. New beginnings for fresh ideas and invigorating passion and commitment, like we all have when it comes to something we truly care about.

MSAA membership teeters between 75 and 90 consistently. We have tried many ways to get into triple digits. One of the ways is engaging with current and recent staff. We have had a presence at the Massawepie Outdoor Challenge (MOC) events held on Columbus and Martin Luther King Weekends. We have helped sponsor (financially) Staff Holiday Parties, with several of our members in attendance. We are becoming more involved with Venture Crew 398 which has its roots in Massawepie staff members.

Crew 398 draws its members from camp staff who joined while they were at camp. We are looking for fresh ideas to sustain this group, as we are the sponsoring Chartered Organization. There is an opportunity to collaborate with our new Reservation Director, Matt Ghirarda, to bring some fresh direction to the crew, and to have some gatherings throughout the year. Conversations are in the works about planning a schedule and some activities. I will be taking a more active role in this, as the Chartered Organization Rep, and we'll be seeking volunteers who would like to make a difference. More on this to come.

Being part of this fine group of people has been nourishing to my soul. To be able to have such great relationships built on our connections to Massawepie and Scouting has given me an abundance of memories I look on fondly. No worries; I'm not going anywhere. I'll still be part of the new beginning.

Thank you for letting me be part of this. It has been an honor. *Mark*



2018-2019 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 (held on Beaver Weekend). The Executive Committee has nominated the following:

Freddy Stein, for Chair	<i>for Member at Large:</i>
Jon Northrup, for Vice-Chair	<i>Mary Beth Boyle</i>
Tim Smith, for Secretary	<i>Sean Glenney</i>
Peter Collinge, for Treasurer	<i>Mike Knittel</i>
Mark Pulvino, for Past Chair	<i>David Lippitt</i>
<i>George Varga, for Member at Large</i>	<i>Kendall Smith</i>
<i>and Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Stephanie VonBacho</i>
<i>(there is 1 open position)</i> -----	

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 Executive Committee member. Please contact Tim or one of the other officers 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.

2017 Financial Report By Peter

In 2017, for the 3rd year in a row, the balance in the MSAA's treasury account went down a bit. But that happened because we were supporting Massawepie, which is our purpose, and overall the Association had a solid year financially. Our biggest expenses were a donation of \$350 from our treasury (beyond members' individual donations) to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment in memory of Addy Meyering, and \$350 to support holiday parties for camp staff. Beyond that, MSAA members donated \$2360 for the endowment and \$4325 (including \$350 in 2016) for cabin appliances. Here's a summary of our 2017 financial year.

Account balance 12/31/16	\$ 2269
Dues income	+\$ 685
Postage expenses	-\$ 89
Sq. Ft. member donations	+\$ 2360
To council Sq. Ft. fund	-\$ 2710 (endowment for Massawepie)
Cabin appliance donations	+\$ 3975
To council capital fund	-\$ 3975 (for cabin appliances)
For camp staff holiday parties	-\$ 350 (\$150, 2016; \$200, 2017)
Winter event surplus	+\$ 30
Fall event deficit	-\$ 84
<u>Memorabilia sales</u>	<u>+\$ 5</u>
Account balance 12/31/17	\$ 2117

Financial Impact of MSAA on Massawepie! By Peter

I researched the financial impact the MSAA has had on Massawepie. The totals include donations made or solicited by MSAA members. In 18 years we have raised at least \$134,451 to support the camp! This covers 11 projects for a total of \$78,116, as well as to the Endowment Fund for a total of \$56,335 (not including growth). Kudos to all of our members!

Membership Renewal By Peter

Please check your Renewal Form in this issue: pink, expired; yellow, expiring June 30; green, expiring 2019 or later. If it's pink or yellow, please renew NOW – before you forget! (Bonus: you'll avoid reminders to renew.) Just send \$15 for 1 year, or \$25 for 2 years. Even better, donate \$60 or more (which includes a one-year membership) to the Mass. Square Foot Fund &/or the 2018 project (see article below). Keep your membership current, help MSC, and keep getting this newsletter. Even if not renewing, please return the form to update any personal data, OR to donate.

Improving Staff Sleep Comfort

By George

Our 2018 camp project (Donor Option) is to improve sleep comfort for staff. This was noted in the Fall newsletter and \$250 has already been donated! Further evaluation shows that 6 double bed mattresses are needed but only 2 box springs. Also, Ben noted that some 4" foam mattresses for cabin cots are being paid for from the capital budget. So, to the double bed needs we hope to add enough sheets of 3/4" plywood to put a 2'x4' bed board on each cabin cot. Any extra funds raised will go towards more cot mattresses. This project is listed on the renewal form. Remember, donate \$60 or more to this project and/or to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund to get a "free" year of MSAA membership. And the camp staff will appreciate new-found sleep comfort!

Beaver Weekend Projects From Ben

Projects of special interest to MSAA are mentioned on Page 1. But there is a long list of other projects below (not complete and subject to change) requiring many volunteers, including you and everyone you can recruit.

Meals (Friday breakfast through Sunday breakfast) and a place to sleep are free. You can come a day or two early (Pre-Beaver Days) to help me get ready for the weekend or to start a project. Please contact me with names and days attending, and project/s you want to work on.

Construction: build latrines in Blue Mountain & Long campsites; build 8 shooting benches for the rifle range (needed for Camp School); build 72 tent platforms and a few yokes; extend White Trail boardwalks.

Renovation: full reno of bathroom in cabin MC-13; continue reno work related to the kitchen in Gannett; reno O/A Lodge to make it a winter sleeping facility; replace all doors at adult/staff shower house.

General projects include: *waterfront setup*, *campsite setup*; painting or staining of 4 buildings; clean culverts and basins on Mountaineer & ECON roads; level/straighten and stain benches at campfire circle; hazardous tree removal in campsites; assess problems with & repair mountain bikes; general camp and building cleanup; mow all fields & grassy areas; organize nuts & bolts in the shop; and many more.

Property Superintendent Ben Geiger, coordinator of projects and housing; contact me via email, ben.geiger@scouting.org or call 518-359-3900.

Spring 2018 Meeting Notes By Tim

The Executive Committee met at the SWC Office on March 21. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mark. Also attending were George, Tim, Peter, Don, Mike, David, and Mary Beth. Richard, Sean and Stephanie were absent. Attending as members/ex-officio member were Jon Northrup, Freddy Stein and Matt Ghirarda.

Minutes from the January 11 meeting were approved with a couple of minor changes.

Peter gave the Treasurer's Report. He noted that as of 3/20/18 there were 85 paid and life members. Year to date there has been \$645 of income and \$540 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$2,221.52 in our account. The 2018 Winter Gathering [see article on Page 4] netted \$25.

The Nomination Slate for MSAA Officers and Members At Large was discussed. We were pleased that two younger members volunteered for offices. Mark will contact inactive members. [See final results on Page 2.]

Article responsibilities and timing were set for this newsletter.

There has been no response to repeated requests on the status of Venture Crew 398. Discussion brought agreement that the crew has merit and possibilities but there will need to be changes and accountability. Matt will investigate.

We restarted a discussion as to a recognition program for camp staff who have served for five or more years. There are currently about 15. The recognition would need to be meaningful and the program ongoing. Don will investigate some ideas that were brought up.

Peter brought up the idea to have permanent stickers to apply to all items in camp (ex.: bikes, kayaks, stoves, mattresses, etc., etc.) which have been purchased through fundraising efforts of the MSAA. This would show staff, campers, leaders and visitors the impact of the Association. All agreed to the idea; Peter will research. [Since then, George designed art for the sticker, Peter ordered 250 and they have arrived.]

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Trading Post Open During Volunteer Weekends By George



I plan to have the TP open before and after most meals on Skills and Beaver Weekends. Also, if I'm there, it is open for business. While it will not be fully set up, nor will all items have arrived, I will do my best to meet your wants and needs. Please stop in!

Camp 2018 Update From Jon and Matt

There is one new program at Massawepie this summer. It is Standup Paddleboarding BSA. For Merit Badges, Music and Theater have been dropped; returning are a couple of oldies: Archeology and Rowing.

Staff hiring is coming along.

New to Massawepie are: Matt Ghirarda, Reservation Dir.; Jen Rosario, Handicraft Dir.; Emily Wagner, Archery Range Dir.

Returning in new jobs are: Freddy Stein, Asst. Camp Dir. For Program; Brendan Flaherty, Program Dir.; Matt Thurston, CIT & BarkEater Dir.; Chet Guenther, Trailblazers Dir.

Returning in the same job are: Jon Northrup, Camp Dir.; Sean Glenney, Health Dir.; Mary Beth Boyle, Sr. Commissioner; Amy Schnell, Business Mgr.; Xander Sprague, Trading Post Mgr.; Kyle Frear, Waterfront Dir.; Rob Byers, Shooting Sports Dir.; Lucas Hanss, ECON Dir.; Matt Hossenlopp, COPE & Climbing Dir.; George Varga, Trading Post Dir.

Still needed are: Office Mgr., Scoutcraft Dir., Sports Dir., Shotgun Dir., Asst. Directors at all 3 ranges, Lifeguards, Dining Hall Steward, Kitchen Aides, and Handicraft staff.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in any of these positions, please contact Matt Ghirarda as soon as possible.

Matthew.Ghirarda@scouting.org or call 585.241.8572



Member Notes

By Peter

One new member has recently joined the MSAA. Kendall Smith worked on the Pioneer staff for five years between 2005 and 2010. Four of those years were in Sports, where he was Area Director in 2010. He has been volunteering in recent years, including much appreciated work on bike maintenance. New members most often come through direct contact, so please ask a friend to join MSAA!

SPECIAL TO BEAVER TALES!

In August 2017 I sat down with 1953 Pioneer staff members Bill Oette (Kitchen) and John Ritz (Scoutcraft) to hear some of their reminiscences.

1. In 1953 Mountaineer was new and still fairly rough while Pioneer was in its 2nd year and was a bit more civilized.

2. A staff member was assigned to eat at each troop table in the dining hall for the entire week and the dining hall was packed. This was a change from former camp Eagle Island (in Sodus Bay), where all patrols cooked their own food.

3. John recalls seeing a pileated woodpecker while deep in the woods with Property Superintendent Harley Burgdorf. It was a rare sighting in those days.

4. Bill and a friend (David Bloomer from Waterfront) canoed across the lake and camped out on a day off. They later got in a bit of trouble for not checking out and were temporarily grounded by Camp Director Robert "Parky" Parkinson.

5. On days off, it wasn't unusual for staff to hitchhike to town. But after the 1953 film "The Hitch-Hiker" (about a psychotic killer) came out, people were much less likely to stop and give them rides! Recent staff might note that while some things are different now, others (like crowded dining halls and day off adventures) never seem to change!

MSAA Winter Gathering '18 (& photos) By Mark

On Sunday March 4th, we had our annual Winter Gathering. The event was at WhichCraft Brews in Webster, New York. There were 24 Alumni in attendance, 30% more than last year, and 28% of our membership! It was great to see many of the usual suspects, as well as having a few newbies join us. We filled up the northeast corner of the establishment as we spent time catching up and sharing stories. Conversations about Massawepie ranged from the old to the new to the future. As we talked, we discovered the group included staff representatives from each of the past six decades – easily over 300 years of service!

We enjoyed great tasting appetizers and delicious beverages. WhichCraft has 55 taps and between all of us, I think we tried most of the 55. Even though it was a cold March day, the sun shined brightly on our group. So, we were warmed by the glow of the sun, the food, the beverages, and the laughter we shared. Staff photos from the 80s and 90s were also shared, evoking thoughts of "where are they now?"

Thanks to Mary Beth Boyle for spearheading arrangements for the gathering (she was unable to attend). It was a huge success! Here's hoping for like success for our Fall 2018 and Winter 2019 gatherings. It was great to see everyone! We now look forward to Beaver Weekend, where we can maybe take over the west (or east) side of another establishment once again.



MSAA 2018 CALENDAR

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