

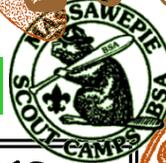
# BEAVER TALES

## SPRING 2019

Photos by David, Mark & others.

Newsletter of the **Massawepie Staff Alumni Association**

*Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!*



## Notice of MSAA Annual Meeting June 1, 2019

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association 2019 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie at 8:00pm on Saturday, June 1. 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 2018-19 activities will be shared, along with plans for the rest of 2019 and beyond. Suggestions for a 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

### *Chair*

Freddy Stein  
fsteinsfl@gmail.com

### *Vice-Chair*

Jon Northrup

### *Treasurer*

Peter Collinge

### *Secretary*

Tim Smith  
timsmith3656@gmail.com

### *Past Chair*

Mark Pulvino  
mpulvino@rochester.rr.com

### *M-a-L & BT Editor*

George Varga  
gvarga@rochester.rr.com

### *Members at Large:*

Mary Beth Boyle  
Sean Glenney  
Mike Knittel  
David Lippitt  
Kendall Smith  
Stephanie VonBacho

### *Staff Advisor*

Don DeClerck  
Don.DeClerck@scouting.org

### *MSAA USPS Address*

MSAA  
J. Warren Cutler  
Scout Reservation  
7131 Gulick Road  
Naples, NY 14512

### *MSAA E-mail*

MassawepieAlumni@yahoo.com

### *MSAA Web Site*

MassStaffAlumni.org

## Beaver Weekend '19: May 31-June 2! 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 inside for a more complete list of projects – there is something for everyone. Plan on joining us for Beaver Weekend in this 68th 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 at right.



## The Beaver Call



It is hard to believe that summer is almost upon us, which will bring another memorable camp season to thousands of people. I'm happy to report that the MSAA had another fantastic year of fundraising, volunteering and social events, with many more great things to come. This is an especially exciting year for the MSAA with our twentieth anniversary coming next year. Since our founding in 2000 we have contributed immensely to those who work at Massawepie, and those who attend, through financial contributions as well as thousands of hours of volunteer work at camp. I thank everyone who has remained an important component of Massawepie's success, helping it become and remain the premier scout camp in the Adirondacks.

You'll find info about some of the exciting things taking place over the next year within this edition of Beaver Tales. The MSAA continues to play an important role in off-season events at Massawepie. The Columbus Day Weekend and The Arctic Challenge (MLK Weekend) events allow Scouts to enjoy Massawepie outside of the traditional summer camp. If you're interested in helping with either or both of those events, please contact me. We're always looking for more volunteers to contribute ideas and time to these great programs.

I extend a challenge to all members of the MSAA. Our membership is now just over 90. With your help we can finally break the 100-member mark to celebrate our twentieth anniversary. Please encourage anyone you know who has worked or volunteered at Massawepie to join our organization and help give back to the camp!

I hope to see many of you again at Beaver Weekend! Freddy



# 2019-2020 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 Week-end). The Executive Committee has nominated the following:

**Freddy Stein, for Chair**  
**Jon Northrup, for Vice-Chair**  
**Tim Smith, for Secretary**  
**Peter Collinge, for Treasurer**  
**Mark Pulvino, for Past Chair**  
**George Varga, for Member at Large and Newsletter Editor**  
*(there is 1 open position)*

*for Member at Large:*  
**Mary Beth Boyle**  
**Brendan Flaherty**  
**Sean Glenney**  
**Mike Knittel**  
**David Lippitt**  
**Kendall Smith**

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.

## 2018 MSAA Financial Report By Peter

In 2018, for the 4th year in a row, the balance in the MSAA's treasury account went down a bit, though it is still slightly above our \$2000 target. Each year, the decrease has been due to extra expenses supporting Massawepie, which is our purpose. In 2018 we spent \$801 (from your dues) on special tee shirts for all 2018 staff members (29 of them!) who had completed three or more summers on camp staff. We still have an inventory of these shirts and will continue this recognition in 2019, but only for the group completing their third staff summer this year. Beyond that, MSAA members donated \$1675 for the endowment and \$2840 toward upgrading staff mattresses. Here's a summary of our 2018 financial year.

Account balance 12/31/17	\$ 2117
Dues income	+\$ 825
Postage expenses	-\$ 87
Sq. Ft. member donations	+\$ 1675
To council Sq. Ft. fund	-\$ 1675 (endowment for Massawepie)
Staff mattress donations	+\$ 2840
To council capital fund	-\$ 2840 (to buy new staff mattresses, etc.)
Winter event surplus	+\$ 25
Staff recognition tee shirts	-\$ 801
Memorabilia sales	+\$ 20
Account balance 12/31/18	\$ 2024 (off \$1 due to rounding)

## Staff Photos Needed! from Peter

I (for the MSAA) have a collection of past camp staff group photos, but would like more. If you have photos from any of the camps/years below, please consider sending a copy (electronic preferred, or paper) to Peter Collinge at collinge@localnet.com or 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534. If you can include a key that identifies some or all of the staff, even better.

Central: 1953-55; 1967; 1969-98. Mountaineer: 1953-54; 1957-68; 1970-00. Voyageur: 1960-62; 1964-76. Forester: 1969-80; 1984-94. Pioneer: 1952-54; 1957; 1959-69; 1977; 2000-19. Thanks!

## Membership Renewal By Peter

Please check the enclosed/attached Membership Renewal Form to see whether it says, "Expiring June 2019" (or earlier). If so, please renew NOW – before you get captivated by the warming weather and forget! (Bonus: you'll avoid repeated reminders to renew.) Just send \$15 (or \$25 for 2 years) to the return address shown on the form. Even better, donate \$60 or more total to the Massawepie Square Foot Fund and/or the Staff Site Electricity project (see article below) and get a "free" 1-year membership renewal. Either way will keep your membership up-to-date, help Massawepie, and keep receiving this fine newsletter during 2019 and beyond!

All members, whether renewing or not this year, are encouraged to return the form if you need to make any updates of your address, phone number, e-mail or other information, *or to donate.*

And please ask a friend to join!

## Power to the Staff By George

Our 2019 camp project (Donor Option) is to fund and help build 2 lean-tos in the staff site to which power will be run. Within each lean-to will be picnic tables, lighting, outlets, and charging stations for staff phones and gadgets. The Council Board has approved this Capital project. Property Superintendent Ben Geiger estimates cost of lean-to materials to be +/- \$2500, and cost for poles, cable, wiring and hardware to be +/- \$1000. So, our goal will be \$3500. Depending on funds raised and construction volunteers available, one lean-to may be put off to 2020. This project is listed on 2019 MSAA Renewal Forms. As always, donate \$60 to the Donor Option &/or the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund and your one-year renewal is free!

## 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:** latrines in Saranac & Raquette campsites; a lean-to in the staff site; 12 full tent platforms and yokes; extend White Trail boardwalks; apply metal roof to Health Lodge & Mountaineer Rifle Range.

**Renovation:** full reno of bathroom in cabin MC-16; continue reno work in the kitchen in Gannett; continue to reno O/A Lodge to make it a winter sleeping facility.

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

Property Superintendent Ben Geiger, Coordinator of projects and housing: contact me via email, [ben.geiger@scouting.org](mailto:ben.geiger@scouting.org) or call 518-359-3900.

## Trading Post Open During Volunteer Weekends By George



As of now, I plan to have the TP open before and after most meals on Work 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.

## Camp 2019 Update From Brendan, Prog. Dir.

MSC is gearing up for another outstanding summer season! Two Merit Badges have been added: Animation (HC) and Exploration (ECON).

Staff hiring is coming along. Lists below are not complete.

Returning in a new job is Freddy Stein as Trek Director.

Returning are: Matt Ghirarda, Reservation/ Camp Dir.; Brendan Flaherty, Program Dir.; Sean Glenney, Health Dir.; Amy Kniffin, Business Mgr.; George Varga, TP Dir.

**Still needed are:** Handicraft Dir. and Counselors; Climbing Dir.; Trading Post Mgr.; Lifeguards; and Kitchen Aides.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in any of these positions, please contact me as soon as possible: [brendanflaherty@gmail.com](mailto:brendanflaherty@gmail.com)

## Notes from Freddy

### MSAA Tee Shirts

I'm excited to announce that we will once again create and sell to our members an MSAA tee shirt. It will be a long sleeve cotton shirt with our logo on the front, but we'd like a design on the back. Got an idea? Send it to me.

### Massawepie Arctic Challenge

In January, MSAA members and almost 70 campers braved frigid weather to enjoy another successful event! Activities in and out of camp were enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the volunteers, and to the Geigers for all their hard work!

## 2019 Exec. Comm. Meeting Notes By Tim

Meeting notes were edited to fit available space. Ed.

**January 23.** Attending were Freddy, Peter, David, Kendall, Tim & George.

Venture Crew 398 status: no Crew members attended a meeting set up by Kendall & Mark. After discussion, it was decided to notify Council that MSAA will no longer sponsor the Crew when the charter expires.

Peter gave the Treasurer's Report. He noted that as of 1/22/19 there were 92 paid and life members, and a balance of \$2,180.01 in our account. Peter suggested that we purchase a Square Yard in memory of Dave Cheney, who passed away on December 26. Dave was a member of the MSAA, a recent Massawepie Camp Director and a professional on the SWC staff. A letter will be sent to his widow Irene, who has also served on staff at MSC.

MSAA Gatherings: A Holiday Gathering was held on Jan. 6 at Radio Social. There were 19 paid attendees plus a few more who arrived near the end. It was a good event at a good location, and did not lose money. See photo on Page 4. A Spring Gathering will be held April 14. [See article & photos on Page 4.]

New MSAA Tee Shirts: With 2020 being our 20th Anniversary, it was decided that it was time for a new version of these. See article by Freddy.

**March 6.** Attending were Freddy, Peter, David, Mark, Kendall, Tim & George

The Nomination Slate for MSAA Officers and Members At Large was discussed. [See final results on Page 2.] Freddy sent an email formally notifying SWC of our decision to discontinue sponsorship of Venture Crew 398.

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. Freddy surveyed some 2018 staffers; a majority of respondents would like a fleece blanket.

Peter noted the only financial change was that \$350 was spent for a Square Yard in memory of Dave Cheney. Freddy sent a letter to Irene.

There was further discussion about MSAA tee shirts, but no decision was reached.

With our 20th Anniversary coming next year, we are looking for ideas for a celebration. We agreed it should not be on Beaver Weekend. Suggestions are welcome!

David announced that Kathy Elliott, the first MSAA President, is receiving the Silver Beaver Award. She joins several past MSAA leaders in receiving this Award.

Peter reported that MSAA member Tom VanGriethuysen died on February 13. Tom served as a commissioned professional in the late 50's/early 60's and was an active volunteer for more than 50 years. See more on Page 4.



# Member Notes

By Peter

For the second year in a row, a former MSAA leader is receiving the Silver Beaver award from Seneca Waterways Council. **Kathy Elliott** was the founding MSAA president from 2000-03, before the title was changed to Chair. She is currently the District Commissioner for Black Creek, but also continues to help at Massawepie, serving on the kitchen crew for several events per year, including Beaver Weekend. Kathy also maintains the MSAA email address. Her Massawepie roots are deep, not just from her years on staff in the 1980's, but also because her father was the long-time and memorable Massawepie Ranger Loren Hakes.

MSAA Executive Committee members David Lippitt and Peter Collinge will again serve as Scoutmasters for National Camping School at Massawepie in June. NCS returned to MSC in 2018 after a 6-year rotation to other camps. David and Peter will each support a troop of staff trainees from around the country, helping them survive a week of intense training in their area of hire, and (questionably?) setting the example of how to be a quality BSA leader and camp staffer.

Sadly, long-time MSAA member Tom VanGriethuysen passed away in February. He served on the professional staff in both the former Finger Lakes and Otetiana Councils, and was the Massawepie Business Manager in 1968 & 1969 (under Reservation Director Ed Black). Tom was also active in the Otetiana & Seneca Waterways Council Historical Society, and co-authored (with Roy Bippes) a history of the first 50 years of the Otetiana Council.



Young MSAA members enjoying our Holiday Gathering at Radio Social!

# MSAA Spring Gathering 2019

By Mark

On Sunday April 14th, we had our annual Spring Gathering. The event was at the recently opened New York Beer Project (NYBP) in Victor, New York. There were 17 attendees, with staff from five decades: 70's through current. They travelled from Chili, Henrietta, Honeoye, Pittsford, Webster, and even Potsdam!

Many conversations and memories about Massawepie were shared and while characters tended to be the same, different versions over the years are known to enhance Massawepie folklore! Team Boyle brought a great binder of Massawepie memorabilia from the past century, which was admired by all. Pete Scribner shared some history of Camp Otetiana, founded 100 years ago on the east side of Canandaigua Lake, just south of the current Finger Lakes Community College, near what is still known as Otetiana Point. He brought a handout with dates and data.

We enjoyed great tasting appetizers and many delicious beverages which NYBP offers. Even though it was a cool, rainy April day, we were warmed by the camaraderie, the food, the beverages, and the laughter we shared. As the crowd dwindled around 5:00, many indicated they will be at Beaver Weekend. See you there!



## MSAA 2019 CALENDAR

- May 10-12 ..... Pre-Skills Weekend at Massawepie
- May 17 ..... Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting - in the morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC
- May 17-19..... Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!
- May 29-30 ..... Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects!
- May 31-June 2 .... Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
- June 1 ..... MSAA Annual Meeting, ~ 8pm, Massawepie
- June 23-Aug. 17.. Staff Week & Camping Weeks at Massawepie
- Oct. 11-14..... Massawepie Outdoor Challenge, Fall Event at Camp Mountaineer
- Oct. 18-20..... Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie – come help button up the camp for winter!
- Oct./Nov..... TBA, MSAA Fall Gathering