

# SPRING 2020 BEAVER TALES

Photos by Ed, Christie & others

Newsletter of the **Massawepie Staff Alumni Association**

*Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!*

The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others.

Robert Baden-Powell

## Save the Date!

### MSAA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association is 20 years old this year! To celebrate this milestone the Association will hold a dinner on **Saturday, November 28th at 6:00pm** at Irondequoit Country Club in Pittsford, NY. All current, past and prospective members are welcome to attend - and bring their pictures, stories and memories to share. Additional information will be provided well in advance of the event. We hope to see you in November!



### 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

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

Kendall Smith  
kas9653@gmail.com

#### Members-at-Large

Mary Beth Boyle

Brendan Flaherty

Sean Glenney

Mike Knittel

David Lippitt

George Varga

#### 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

### Notice of MSAA Annual Meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association 2020 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie at 8:00pm on Saturday, June 6. We will 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 2019-20 activities will be shared, along with plans for the rest of 2020 and beyond. The 20th anniversary dinner 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 will hopefully continue, as always, at one or more sites in the greater Childwold/Gale area.

**\*\*\* As of publication of this newsletter, the MSAA Annual Meeting is still scheduled during Beaver Weekend (Fri June 5 – Sun June 7). For important scheduling updates please go to [MassStaffAlumni.org](http://MassStaffAlumni.org)! \*\*\***



## THE BEAVER CALL



I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. While we face challenging times, the 2020 camping season is around the corner. In this newsletter you'll find highlights regarding the upcoming season, details regarding upcoming events, and the 2020 slate of officers of the Alumni Association. Our next gathering and meeting will be at Beaver Weekend at Massawepie. I encourage all that can volunteer do so and help get camp up and running for the summer. We will be having our annual meeting which all are welcome to attend. Beaver Weekend highlights the dedication of Massawepie's volunteers and commitment to its continued improvement.

Massawepie has had a profound impact on all who have attended as scouts, staff, and volunteers. This should not be a surprise to the readers of this newsletter who continue to stay connected with camp. Massawepie is truly an incredible scout camp unrivaled by few in the country. This is the case now and when it first opened. Thomas J. Babe Jr. a scout who spoke at the Dedication Day in 1953 stated, "Not all boys are able to camp here, and we consider it a real privilege to be among those who can come... Every one of us will carry through life the pleasant memories of our stay here." I believe Babe's words are a fitting reminder that we are fortunate to have such a great camp. I would add that what makes Massawepie great is the dedication of its volunteers and staff for nearly seventy years. I hope to see many of you at Beaver Weekend. Be well. - **Freddy**

## Beaver Weekend '20: June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>! 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 improving the Staff Lounge (see article on p 3). See inside for a more complete list of projects – there is something for everyone. Plan on joining us for Beaver Weekend in this 69<sup>th</sup> year of Massawepie, even if it's been a while, 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! [windycityvino@gmail.com](mailto:windycityvino@gmail.com) or 585-469-8504.

For important Beaver Weekend scheduling updates, please visit [MassStaffAlumni.org](http://MassStaffAlumni.org)!

## 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 (held on Beaver Weekend). 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**

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.

## 2019 MSAA Financial Report By Peter

In 2019, for the fifth year in a row, the balance in the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's treasury account went down slightly, and is now slightly below our \$2000 target balance. But that's OK, since we're spending the money to support Massawepie, which is our purpose. In 2019, we spent \$489 on special fleece blankets for all 2019 staffers (12 of them) who had complete five or more summers on camp staff. We also bought some additional T-shirts to recognize those staffers (8 of them) completing their 3rd year on staff. We still have a good inventory of these shirts and blankets and plan to continue these 5-year and 3-year staff recognitions in 2020.

Beyond normal association dues, which support projects like the T-shirts mentioned above, Alumni Association members donated an additional \$1030 for endowment and \$3415 to electrify the junior staff site. In addition, the Executive Committee authorized a donation of \$350 from the association treasury to endow a Square Yard of camp in memory of Dave Cheney, the 2015-16 Camp Director. Here's a summary of our 2019 financial year:

Account balance 12/31/18	\$ 2024	
Dues income	+\$ 920	
Postage expenses	- \$ 73	
Sq.Ft. member donations	+\$ 1,030	
To council Sq. Ft. Fund	- \$ 1,380	(as an endowment for Massawepie)
Staff site donations	+\$ 3,415	
To council Capital Fund	- \$ 3,415	(for lean-tos w/electricity in the staff site)
Winter event surplus	+\$ 24	
Memorabilia sales	+\$ 37	
Staff recognition items	- \$ 700	(3-year T-shirts & 5-year blankets)
Account balance 12/31/19	\$ 1882	



## Membership Renewal By Peter

Please check the enclosed Membership Renewal Form to see whether it says "Expiring June 2020" (or earlier). If so, please renew NOW – before you start binge-watching your favorite show 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, make a donation of \$60 or more total to the Massawepie Square Foot Fund and/or the Staff Lounge Upgrade project (see separate article) 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 2020 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!

## Beaver Weekend Projects From Ben

Projects of special interest to MSAA are mentioned on Page 2. 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 - 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 the project(s) you want to work on.

### Construction:

- Trading Post Pavilion: Construct an outdoor covered seating area for Big Jake's and the Trading Post.
- RV/Camper Project: Add six stone pads for RV/camper sites in Mountaineer basecamp; Run water access to each site; Add dump station to Massawepie for RV/campers use.
- Build two new 1500-gallon latrines for troop camp sites, the first at the Schroon campsite and the second is at the Sacandaga campsite; Construct tent frames in campsites to replace red tents; Move canoe racks and rearrange waterfront boating area for better layout.

### Electrical:

- Staff site electrification: Run wires to staff cabin tents; set up each cabin tent with four-gang electrical outlet.

### Renovation:

- Gannett Kitchen Project: Removal of center wall, addition of hallway wall and doorway, ceiling purlins added, ceiling drywalled, walls sheeted.
- Health Lodge: Bathroom/kitchen wall moved, kitchen work, and exam room work. Replace floor in staff lounge with vinyl tiles.

### Refrigeration:

- Clean all coils in Pioneer Dining Hall ref/cooler, Mountaineer Dining Hall ref/cooler, and warehouse ref/cooler. All units should be tested for function.
- Evacuate refrigerant out of refrigerators in lumber yard.

### General:

- Roofing: Pioneer Dining Hall: Replace leaking dining hall roof.
- Trail Work: Build new trail boardwalks along White Trail south of the Massawepie outlet bridge.
- Other: Repair and replace cot mesh kits for campsite cots; Paint MC-11 and MC-13; Clean out all culverts and uphill basins on Mountaineer and Econ road; Mow all fields and areas around camp; Cut down and remove all hazard trees in camp sites; Go through mountain bikes to assess problems and parts needed to get working, repair as many as possible with supplies available; Organize nuts and bolts in shop; Set up tents, cots, and mattresses in lower campsites used for camp school; Empty out August Lodge and clean; Get program buildings cleaned, set up, and ready for camp school; General camp and building clean up.

### Contact me, Property Superintendent Ben Geiger, Coordinator of Projects and Housing:

- Email: [ben.geiger@scouting.org](mailto:ben.geiger@scouting.org) Phone: 518-359-3900



Photos from Beaver Weekend 2019!

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## 2020 MSAA Donor Option By Jon

This year's MSAA Donor Option will fund improvements to the Camp Pioneer staff lounge. Attached to the Pioneer health lodge, the staff lounge is an indispensable space for staff members, especially those who live in cabin tents in the staff site. The staff frequently use the staff lounge during their free time and days off to relax, charge devices, play games, and most importantly, store food items.

Ben Geiger, Property Superintendent; Sean Glenney, Health Director and de-facto Staff Lounge Caretaker; and past and current staff members have been tapped to provide insight for specific needs and areas of improvement. Donations collected for improvements will help fund: basic structural and electrical refurbishments; a long term, durable solution for individual staff food storage; and additional creature comforts, such as furniture and entertainment items.

Please consider donating to these staff lounge improvements to help support current and future staff members at Massawepie Scout Camps!

# Exec. Comm. Meeting Notes By Tim

*Meeting notes were edited to fit available space. Ed.*

## December 3, 2019

The MSAA Executive Committee met at the Scout Office. Attending were Freddy, Peter, David, Mark, Mike, Kendall, Jon, Mary Beth, Brendan and Tim. Don, Mark, Sean and George were unable to attend. Brendan reported that the Columbus Day Weekend, while having lower attendance, was still a success. It was held at Pioneer. Brendan also reported that MSAA was staffing the Massawepie Arctic Challenge, Jan. 17-20 at Gannett. The Jan. gathering will be on Sunday Jan. 5, 1:30 – 5:00pm at Radio Social, 20 Carlson Rd.

George Varga announced he will be stepping down as Newsletter Editor due to health concerns. Kendall Smith will be the new editor. Peter gave the Treasurer's/Membership report (see details on page 2). There will be an online clothing store available to purchase select camp shirts.

David reported that an April date is being considered for the MSAA 20th Anniversary celebration. More details to follow. The 2020 MSAA Fundraising initiative will be to underwrite improvements to the Staff Lounge. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm and the next Executive Committee meeting is January 9 at 6:30pm.

## January 9, 2020

The MSAA Executive Committee met the Scout Office. Attending were Freddy, Peter, Mike, David, Kendall, Jon, Mary Beth, Mark, George and Tim. Don, Brendan and Sean were unable to attend. The Arctic Challenge is being staffed by the MSAA, Jan 17-20 at Gannett.

The January Gathering at Radio Social was a success. There were more than 20 in attendance representing staff from the 1970's to the present. Peter gave the Treasurer's/Membership report. The Online Clothing sub-committee is reviewing details and will report at the next Executive meeting.

A sub-committee has been established to coordinate needed updates and improvements for the Staff Lounge. The MSAA 20th Anniversary Celebration committee continues to investigate sites and costs. David and Peter will review the MSAA Bylaws/Rules of Operation and make recommendations at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm and the next Executive Committee meeting will be March 12.

## March 12, 2020

The MSAA Executive Committee met the SWC Office. Attending were Peter, Brendan, Mike, David, Jon, Mark, Kendall, Tim and George. Mary Beth, Don, Sean and Freddy were unable to attend. Jon chaired the meeting in Freddy's absence.

The Spring newsletter and column contributors were discussed. The Online Clothing sub-committee reported that the site will be up from Beaver Weekend through mid-July. See article on page 5.

The MSAA 20th Anniversary celebration options are still being gathered. Peter gave the Treasurer's/Membership report. Peter and David reported that after reviewing the Bylaws/Rules of Operations, there are no major changes needed at this time. It will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Slate of Officers/Members-at-Large was discussed. Freddy is stepping down and Jon is considering taking the Chair position (see proposed Slate of Officers/Members-at-Large on page 2). Upcoming events are Beaver Weekend, MSAA Annual Meeting and the Massawepie October Odyssey (see Calendar). Mark Pulvino proposed that Alumni consider being mentors for the current Camp staff. See article below.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm and the next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 6 at Massawepie.

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## SCOUTING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS BY MARK

The Massawepie Program Committee is actively developing a support program for summer program staff. We want to leverage the experience and knowledge of SSMEs (Scouting Subject Matter Experts) to share with current and future staff. Feedback in the camp user surveys is already complimentary to our camp staff. We see opportunities to address observations troops had in program areas. Key observations included needing strategies for best utilizing existing staff and engaging/leveraging adult volunteers (whether as a layperson/assistant or as a SSME). Another challenge for camp staff is the adult leader who (may be well-intentioned but) misdirects and/or overwhelms the staffer.

Without a support system in place, program areas requiring unique knowledge and skills suffer from steep learning curves for staffers and (potentially) a lack of confidence in their roles. Camp staff retention rates are declining, and we see an opportunity to reverse this unfortunate trend.

The depth of our Alumni pool is a cornerstone in creating a foundation in mentoring. A trailblazer already, Kendall Smith invests in our mountain bike program. Having a passion for the activity and experience from being on staff, Kendall commits time each year to tune up bikes for the summer, train incoming staff and maintain the program area.

SSMEs can help teach our staff to negotiate through the challenges that come and identify the opportunities that arise while partnering with certifications and National Camp School. The Program Committee is reaching out to leaders that are coming to camp. We are developing a database of contacts. Our goal is to identify skills and talent, and to provide SSMEs with the resources they need to support our staff. When it comes down to it, the program is run by the staff. But, we believe that we can help Massawepie make an even bigger impact on Scouts' lives and experiences.

Our initial focus areas are ECON, Field Sports and Scoutcraft. Ideal commitment would be hands-on involvement at least 2-3 times per year. Support can be planned during pre-camp training, staff week, even a visit during the summer. A couple days can go a long way. We are looking for candidates who would like to be considered. Please reach out to Kathy Elliott ([Kathy.Elliott@wegmans.com](mailto:Kathy.Elliott@wegmans.com)) or Mark Pulvino ([windycityvino@gmail.com](mailto:windycityvino@gmail.com)) or 585-469-8504 to discuss further.

## 2020 Massawepie Outdoor Challenges By Brendan

The 7th Annual Massawepie Arctic Challenge over Martin Luther King Weekend was a huge success, with more than 50 participants from seven Troops in attendance. Scouts and leaders got the opportunity to explore the Adirondacks in winter, using the Voyageur buildings as a base. Of special note this year was the use of Massawepie's new fat-tire bikes in the snow! Fourteen association members served to provide program and food service during the event. Thanks to all!

This upcoming fall, the Massawepie October Odyssey is coming back to Columbus Day weekend! This event challenges Troops to participate in a massive scavenger hunt, with activities and challenges spread throughout not only the Massawepie property, but the entire Adirondack Park! Interested in helping at either of these events? Contact Ben Geiger at [ben.geiger@scouting.org](mailto:ben.geiger@scouting.org).



MLK Weekend Volunteer Staff!



Fat-tire bikes in use by Scouts during MLK!



### Help Needed!



This October Odyssey we will need the assistance of a few extra volunteers to help the Kitchen Crew prepare meals for the event. We welcome all abilities! Contact Ben (see above)!

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

### Staff Photos for MSAA Website By Peter

As Alumni Association webmaster/historian, I have started posting past staff photos online. So far, a selection of Central, Forester, and Voyageur staff photos are available at <http://massstaffalumni.org/Photos.htm>. Mountaineer and Pioneer photos will be coming later this year. If you can add any of the missing photos from the online groups, or any of those listed below, please consider sending a copy (electronic preferably, or paper) to Peter Collinge at [collinge@localnet.com](mailto:collinge@localnet.com) or 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534. If you can include a key that identifies the names of some or all of the staff, even better!

**Mountaineer** staff photos needed: 1953-54, 1957-68, 1970-71, 1972-82, 1984-86, 1989-99

**Pioneer** staff photos needed: 1952-54, 1957, 1959-68, 1977, 2000-18

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### Camp Pioneer 2020 Update & Welcome Katelyn Merritt! By Don & Kendall

At the time of this column, there is still uncertainty on the status of Camp Pioneer operations this summer. Seneca Waterways Council leadership are developing detailed plans to safely host units in accordance to NYS guidance, with the health and well-being of Scouts, leaders, staff, and the community as the highest priority. While camp will be different this summer than it ever has been before, we still plan to offer a memorable and rewarding experience. The dedication of Massawepie's staff, supporters and volunteers will help ensure a 69<sup>th</sup> summer to remember!

We are also excited to welcome Katelyn Merritt as the new Pioneer Camp Director (and SWC Program Director)! Kate's most previous role was Senior Family Scouting Executive for districts in the Occoneechee Council in North Carolina. She is originally from Vermont and brings notable accomplishments including Staff Advisor for the Northern New Jersey Council's 2017 National Jamboree Contingent, member of National Camp School Staff as a Climbing instructor, Woodbadge Fox in 2014, and Order of the Arrow Ordeal in Spring 2019.

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### 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 alumni association 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!

## Cumulative Alumni Donations By Peter

For the twenty years from 2000-2019, Massawepie Staff Alumni Association members have donated a total of \$84,371 toward the designated annual projects at Massawepie, and a total of \$59,390 for the Square Foot Endowment to fund future maintenance and equipment for Massawepie. That's an amazing total of \$143,761 that has been given by Alumni Association members to keep Massawepie available for the Scouts of the future. Congratulations and thank you!



## MCAA Winter Gathering 2020

Our gathering at Radio Social was a success with 20+ in attendance representing staff from the 1970's to the present.



## Member Notes By Peter

Long-time MCAA member and charter Executive Committee member **David Lippitt** has been chosen to receive the BSA's prestigious **Silver Antelope Award** in 2020. The Silver Antelope recognizes Scouters of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service within a BSA region. David is currently President of Area 3 of the Northeast Region. Area 3 includes 9 councils that serve most of upstate New York, plus Vermont. David was previously Council President and Council Commissioner for Seneca Waterways Council.

The 2020 recipients of BSA's council-level **Silver Beaver Award** also include an Alumni Association member: **Brad VanAuken**. Along with serving a number of volunteer roles in several councils, especially in the area of Marketing, Brad performed a major service to Massawepie by chairing the committee that developed the current Massawepie BarkEater camper recognition/retention program.

## MCAA Apparel Sale By Jon

In commemoration of the Alumni Association's 20th Anniversary, we will have an online MCAA apparel store for members and friends!

Items for sale will include:

- Polo shirts with a commemorative 20th Anniversary MCAA logo
- Long sleeve t-shirts with a commemorative 20th Anniversary MCAA logo
- Baseball caps with the MCAA logo

The online store will tentatively open Beaver Weekend (June 5th - 7th) and stay open for several weeks. Individuals can order items directly through the online store and have them delivered right to your home!

The Boy Scouts of America stands for a set of principles. These principles have a lot of staying power. The values you learn as a Scout are like a compass. They can help you find your way through difficult and sometimes uncharted terrain. The principles of Scouting give you a sense of what's important. I feel I owe the Boy Scouts a great deal, both personally and professionally.

Senator Bill Bradley

## MCAA 2020 CALENDAR

*This calendar is current as of newsletter release in mid-May 2020.*

*Please refer to Seneca Waterways Council for official camp scheduling.*

*For MCAA event status updates, go to [www.MassStaffAlumni.org](http://www.MassStaffAlumni.org)!*

- June 3-4.....Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects!
- June 5-7 (TBD).....Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
- June 6.....MCAA Annual Meeting, ~ 8pm, Massawepie
- June 28-Aug. 15 .....Staff Week & Camping Weeks at Massawepie
- Oct. 9-12 .....Massawepie Outdoor Challenge, October Odyssey at Camp Mountaineer
- Oct. 16-18 .....Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie – come help button up the camp for winter!
- Nov. 28 .....MCAA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Celebration – see page 1 for details!