

# WINTER 2012 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the **Massawepie Staff Alumni Association**

*Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!*



**Celebrating 60 Years of Scout Camping...  
Massawepie Scout Camps, Since 1952!**

## New Massawepie Lean-to *by Peter*

What structure could be more iconic in the Adirondacks than the lean-to? Yet Massawepie has never had a fully-constructed lean-to (to my knowledge), other than some informal/temporary versions. Until now! Ranger Ben Geiger, with the help of his staff and some volunteers, has constructed a spacious new lean-to overlooking Massawepie Lake near the former Camp Voyageur campfire circle, not far from Gannett Lodge (the former Voyageur dining hall). Did I mention that the lean-to is spacious? That's an understatement - one can stand inside along the back wall and still have plenty of headroom, unlike the standard-issue state lean-tos. Some have described the new structure as an über-lean-to. This lean-to will be available to groups renting Gannett Lodge, and maybe as a separate rental. Best of all, the lean-to was constructed with little cost to the camp. The Town of Piercefild Highway Department was planning to remove some trees along Massawepie Road (formerly known to Scouts as Townline Road). Ben was able to salvage these logs and get them cut for lean-to use. Under the 1997 Massawepie Easement, new building construction on the property is severely limited. However, we are able to build lean-tos within "Base Camp" (Voyageur/Pioneer/ Mountaineer) as long as they are at least 100 feet from water bodies and wetlands (the new lean-to is), and also outside of Base Camp at the designated outposts. Maybe more lean-tos are in Massawepie's future!



Photo by Carol T.



2012 is the 60th Anniversary of Massawepie Scout Camps. 60 years ago, the then Otetiana Council made a bold commitment to the boys of Monroe County, offering them the opportunity to experience the Adirondack adventure. And with the birth of Seneca Waterways Council, we get to share an even larger anniversary. This year Camp Babcock Hovey, on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, celebrates its 75th Anniversary. So, the merger of two long-standing Scout Councils means that more boys have more opportunities to experience the great programs we have to offer in Scout camping.

And the best thing of all...we, as the MSAA membership, get to work hard, for the boys and the adult leaders, to make camp this summer the best adventure they have ever had. And of course, we get to hang out together, socialize, and enjoy the adventure, as well. I look forward to seeing all of you, making new friends, recruiting new members, and enjoying the fellowship that we all experience. See y'all at Massawepie...Spring Skills, Beaver Weekend, summer camp, and Fall Skills.

## Executive Committee

### **Chair**

Gary Hicks  
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### **Vice-Chair**

Erin Burruto

### **Treasurer & Council VP of Camping**

Peter Collinge

### **Secretary**

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### **Past Chair**

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MassStaffAlumni.org

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## 2012 MSAA Donor Option *by Don & George*

The Donor Option camp project for 2012 was chosen at the January 18 Executive Committee meeting. The 60th Anniversary project is a 12' x 12' platform with an angled roof at the Shotgun Range. The structure will allow for shooting in inclement weather, increasing available time for both merit badge and open shooting. Our goal is \$2000 to cover most, if not all, of the cost of materials. Construction will be done during Beaver Weekend by MSAA and other volunteers. With \$500 already donated by the Association (see below), we need only 25 members to donate \$60 each to reach our goal. Your help as always will be appreciated.

## Treasurer's Report *by Peter*

The MSAA had another good year financially in 2011, thanks to the support of our members. As you can see below, we raised \$1835 for the camp project. By combining those funds with some council funding, we were able to build 4 staff tabins with wooden bases and lower side walls and purchase 4 new tents, each approximately 10'x10' (much larger than the 9'x7' tents most junior staff now sleep in, and also with more headroom). By all accounts, these tabins were quite popular with the 2011 staff assigned to them. We also raised \$2185 for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment. This fund now exceeds \$50,000, as reported in the fall newsletter, and is on its way to becoming an important funding source for the future of Massawepie. After hearing recently that yet another Adirondack Scout Camp is closing (Camp Cedarlands near Long Lake will not be operated by the Revolutionary Trails Council in 2012), it is more important than ever that we work to keep Massawepie attractive and financially strong.

Finally, we had about \$600 more in revenues than expenses. Our Rules of Operation state that excess funds beyond a reasonable operating balance shall be donated to the council for Massawepie. At the January 18 meeting of the Executive Committee, we decided to donate an additional \$500 to the Square Foot Endowment (including \$350 as a Square Yard memorial tribute to departed Massawepie alumni Dave Anderson). The Executive Committee also agreed to donate \$500 of our balance to the 2012 alumni project (Donor Option, see article above). Your donation to this 60th anniversary project, and/or to the Square Foot Endowment, will be appreciated, now (at the current level) or when the call goes out with membership renewals in May (at the new level).

MSAA 2011 Financial Data as of 12/31/11	2010		2011	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Dues	680.00		610.00	
Administrative Expenses (mailing, etc.)		77.00		105.08
Camp Project Donations ('10 Laundry, '11 Tabin)	1,500.00		1,835.00	
Camp Project Expenses		2,000.78		1,835.00
Square Foot Endowment Donations	1,405.00		2,185.00	
Square Foot Endowment to Council		1,405.00		2,185.00
Social Event Income (Winter Event, Clambakes)			450.00	
Social Event Costs		99.00		419.00
Memorabilia Sales Income (patches, shirts, etc.)	123.00		63.00	
Memorabilia Costs (patches)		286.78		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,708.00</b>	<b>3,868.56</b>	<b>5,143.00</b>	<b>4,544.08</b>
pc 2/12/12			Paid Membership	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>12/31/09</b>	<b>91</b>
Beginning Balance	2,449.13	2,288.57	05/25/10	97
Income	3,708.00	5,143.00	12/31/10	89
Expense	-3,868.56	-4,544.08	05/24/11	95
Ending Balance	2,288.57	2,887.49	12/31/11	85

## Dues & Donor Option Increase

*by Peter*

As a reminder, new rates taking effect in the spring are: one year dues, \$15 (up from \$10); two years dues, \$25 (up from \$20); and donation in place of one year dues, \$60 (up from \$50). If your membership has expired, send your renewal (at the old rate if you act quickly) to Don DeClerck at Cutler - address on Page 1.

## MSC 2012 Update

*by Steve W. & George*

Registrations look great, with over 1900 campers pre-registered (plus Eagle Flight). This may change when per camper deposits come due on March 15th, but based on the past, we should have more campers than last year!

For program, we hope to offer the new Kayaking Merit Badge, thanks to MSAA for their fundraising for kayaks a few years ago. Other additions are possible. Special content at the Friday carnival/picnic & campfire each week will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Massawepie. The camp patch will as well. For sale in the Trading Post will be anniversary shoulder patches, mugs, and more. Staffing for 2012 is going well. Cody Hampton will be moving up to Program Director. Returning in management roles are: Sean Glenney, Christielee Bower, Cole Prato, Jon Northrup and Mary Beth Boyle. Waterfront is nearly finalized and there are solid prospects for most other area directors. Noteworthy vacancies are Senior Commissioner and directors for Rifle and/or Shotgun and Archery. If anyone knows of possible candidates, please have them contact me. Many interviews are scheduled for this month. [Of Note: Steve is returning for his record 11th year as Camp Director!]

## David S. Anderson - Scouter Gone Home *by Mark*

Recently Massawepie and many MSAA members, as well as many in the Scouting movement lost a friend. David Anderson passed away on December 28, 2011. His journey ended surrounded by his family and close friends. While we are saddened at his passing we are grateful for David's life, his friendship, and the difference he made.

Dave became an Eagle Scout in 1976 and started working at Massawepie in 1977, as a Sailing Aide at Pioneer. He was a Commissioner at Mountaineer for the next three summers, and was Program Director there in 1981 and 1982. After Dave finished college in Rochester he became a Scouting Professional and served as Camp Director at Mountaineer in 1985 and 1986. He also served councils in Elmira, NY, Fort Worth, Texas, and New York City.

David became the Scout Executive of the Narragansett Council, (RI & part of MA) Boy Scouts of America in January 2000, serving until his death. Dave will long be remembered in the Narragansett Council for his significant work in maintaining and improving its eight camp properties, which served over 9,000 young people each summer, and for his unending efforts in reaching out to urban youth through the 1910 Scoutreach Program. His legacy to Scouting will include his tireless efforts in building the Endowment Funds of the Narragansett Council and Rhode Island Boy Scouts. [Note: Roy L. Williams, who was BSA Chief Scout Executive from 2000 to 2007, was Narragansett Council Executive from 1990 to 1993, and was a District Executive in Fort Worth earlier in his career. Who knows where Dave could have gone had he not been taken from us so young.]

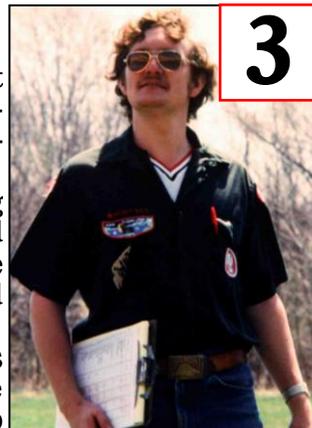
Throughout his life Dave made friends and memories along the way. He was driven to always "do a good turn" as well as always "doing his best." This is evidenced by the many kind words and tributes posted on his Caring Bridge website page, set up with the help of long-time friends Brett and Kathy Elliott, who among many others, were on staff with Dave. Go to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidanderson5/journal/1> to see what I mean. It was very obvious that he made that same impression on others that he did on us. There were many comments about Dave being a great boss, mentor, friend, and loved one. Many noted the fun David had in his life, as well as that chuckle he had. Dave was grateful for all the support during his journey and was impressed by "so many wonderful people" that cared for him.

Kathy said, "I love the story Brett told at the service, about how Dave, in his very first year as a junior staff member, arrived a day early and then greeted all the other staff when they arrived like he was the one 'in the know'."

For as long as I knew him, Dave had always driven his life in exactly the direction he wanted it to go. He never accepted anything less. He lived with no regrets and said so over and over in his last weeks. He made everyone feel special...and instantly at ease.

There were some great "Dave" stories shared at the recent MSAA Winter Gathering. I'm sure there will be more on Beaver Weekend.

Rest in Peace David Anderson - Scouter gone home, but never forgotten.



Dave in '81 or '82, Mountaineer Program Director



Dave in front of "his" cabin during a hike around Massawepie Lake with friends Deric & Kim Wertz a few years ago.

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## Massawepie History Follow-up *by Peter*

Massawepie history buffs will recall that the (former) Otetiana Council purchased Massawepie in 1951 from the five children of William Sykes, who had purchased the property in 1912. The Sykes family were also the principal owners of the Emporium Forestry Company and the Grasse River Railroad of Conifer.

Those who attended the Massawepie 50th Anniversary celebration in 2002 may remember a visit from Virginia Sykes Dreby, granddaughter of William Sykes. Mrs. Dreby said that she helped convince her father to vote in favor of the sale to the Scouts (though the family might have received more money from a sale to developers). She and her husband maintained a summer home in Cranberry Lake for many years afterwards. Last year I sent Mrs. Dreby a note thanking her family again for making Massawepie available to the Scouts, and included one of the 2011 camp patches. I received a nice e-mail back from her daughter Carol, saying in part, "Our whole family is thrilled with the wonderful use and preservation of the Massawepie lakes and lands by the Scouts. We also know a number of folks in Cranberry Lake who look forward to their off-season visits to the property especially for fishing. ... My mother is now 93, still has her wits about her, exercises regularly and otherwise gets around as much as she can."

As a side note, there is a wonderful album of photos of Massawepie and its old hotel outbuildings, taken in the 1940s by Edwin C. Dreby, late husband of Virginia Sykes Dreby. These photos are posted in the history section of the MSAA website at [www.MassStaffAlumni.org](http://www.MassStaffAlumni.org).



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## MSAA Winter Gathering '12 *by Peter*

An even dozen of us gathered at the Thirsty Turtle on Route 96 near Victor on Saturday February 11. We had a good evening of fellowship and conversation. Along with talking about camp, the Adirondacks, Scouting and other topics, there was some reminiscing about Dave Anderson. The Thirsty Turtle was nice - a bit more spacious than Dumas/Thirsty Moose, but there *were* pool tables with games going on to make us feel at home. Attending were: Mike Knittel, Mark Pulvino, Peter Collinge, the newly engaged Stephanie VonBacho and Scott Trumbower, Doug Perryman, Brett and Kathy Elliott, Richard and Sue Wright, Erin Burruto and Scott Gonyeo.

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## INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- A Scouter Gone Home.
- New Lean-to!
- Winter Gathering Report!
- Camp 2012 Update!
- Massawepie 60th, and more!

Visit us at [masstaffalumni.org](http://masstaffalumni.org)

TO:

## Membership Renewal

If the top line of your label reads EXPIRED MAY 2011, you are about to be dropped! Please renew now – see Page 2 for more information!

Ever want to be more involved with Massawepie? One great way is to join its Property Committee. We meet monthly (except June, July & December) on the 4th Wednesday at 6:30 pm at 474 East Avenue. The committee: works with camp Ranger Ben Geiger to develop and implement plans for maintenance and upgrades; organizes service weekends to open and close the camp as well as the annual Beaver Weekend; helps develop the annual Capital Budget; and more. We have very dedicated members but can use more. As a past Staffer you know the camp. It also helps to have new members with a fresh outlook. Just come to the next meeting. By the way - we get a lot of work done but also have a lot of fun!

*Mike Knittel,*

Council Properties Committee Chairman

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The Executive Committee (11) and 18 other members get Beaver Tales via e-mail. Six (or more) copies are hand delivered and couples get one copy. At current postal rates, MSAA saves over \$17 per issue – over \$52 per year! Help us save even more. Get your Beaver Tales in pdf format via e-mail. You'll get it sooner AND in color! All mailed copies are printed on my black & white laser printer instead of my color ink jet printer, to save my donated time and expense. Send your request to George Varga, Editor at: [givarga@rochester.rr.com](mailto:givarga@rochester.rr.com) . Thanks!  
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## 2012 EVENTS

**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 following Beaver Weekend dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle!**

**December 28-30...Anniversary Winter Weekend at Massawepie (tentative – watch for details)**