

WINTER 2014 Beaver Tales



Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!



Photos by G. Varga

2014 Winter Gathering *by George*

The Annual Winter Gathering of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association was held on Sunday March 2nd. Over 20 of us enjoyed three hours of often spirited conversation. Food, soft drinks and of course, beer, were in abundance. Chili, dips, hors d'oeuvres, and more were brought in by attendees. TK's pizza and wings lived up to their great reputation. Several people bought FBC Samplers and everyone who imbibed seemed to find a brew that suited them. The small space was often crowded since FBC was open to serve their many regulars, as well as our group. This bothered no one, as it was a very friendly crowd. For some reason, beer styles and the proliferation of craft and "farm" breweries were popular topics. Past staff members (most not in attendance) and their antics, and past directors (one, Chuck Levengood, was there) also had a large part in the conversation. Some of us seem to have a worsening problem with remembering names and years - not that it holds us back at all. Fairport Brewing is still thriving several weeks after our "invasion," as are the Thirsty Turtle (2012) and Olmstead Lodge (2013), so it is possible that the "bad rep" MSAA had for causing places to close, is finally put to rest. It was a great afternoon! (See the photos here & on Pages 2 & 4.) Our thanks to FBC owners and employees, to TK's Pizzeria, and especially to Erin Burruto for making it all happen.



I would like to thank everyone that made it to our Winter Gathering at Fairport Brewing Company. These gatherings often lend themselves to talks about the past and the "Good Old Days." This is important as our past adventures at Massawepie are what have brought us all together. I was pleasantly surprised in that there was quite a lot of talk about the future. We were able to look at the plans for the new Council Servicer (thanks to Mike Knittel). I have been aware of the move for quite a while, but it was nice to actually see what is ahead. There was also a lot of talk about the upcoming summer, which looks to be a great one.

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MSAA News & Notes *by Peter*

So far in 2014, we have one new member. Matt Crance, Chair of the Camp Babcock-Hovey Properties Committee, joined as a "Friend of Massawepie." Welcome Matt, and yes, we're all friends within the camps of Seneca Waterways Council!

Congratulations to Executive Committee member Stephanie VonBacho! She and Scott Trumbower were married on March 2nd in Sonoma, California. (This was a pretty good reason they were not

in attendance at our March 2nd Winter Gathering.) Stephanie reports that she will keep her last name - a significant name in the history of Massawepie Scout Camps. She is hoping to join us at Beaver Weekend this year.

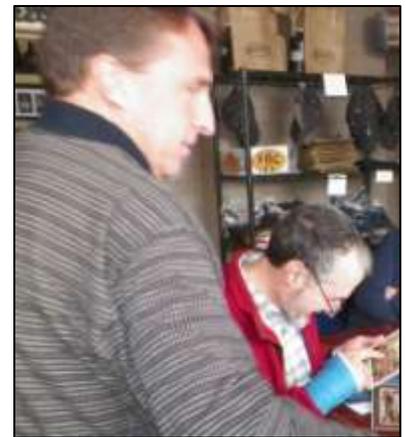
We ended 2013 with 83 paid members, down from 93 at the start of the year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so soon. Also, please encourage anyone you know who is a "friend of Massawepie" to join the Association. Let's make 2014 the year our membership passes 100, and stays there.



2013 Financial Report *by Peter*

Balance on 12/31/12.....	\$2,878.24	
<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>
Dues.....	\$950.00.....	\$0.00
Administrative (mailing, website, etc.).....	\$0.00.....	\$80.50
Camp Project, Donor Option (BMX bikes).....	\$1,000.00.....	\$1,500.00
Square Foot Endowment, Donor Option	\$2,095.00.....	\$2,445.00
Social Event (winter gathering, picnic/clambake)	\$645.00.....	\$436.00
<u>Memorabilia (patches, tee shirts).....</u>	<u>\$41.00.....</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTALS.....	\$4,731.00.....	\$4,461.50
Balance as of 12/31/13		\$3,147.74

The Alumni Association had a good year financially in 2013. We raised \$1000 for the Massawepie BMX bikes program. We also raised \$2095 from MSAA members for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund. In addition, we donated \$500 more from the MSAA treasury toward bikes, to meet our promised goal. Money sent to the Square Foot Endowment included \$350 from the Treasury for a Square Yard in honor of Steve Weisenreder. Still, we ended the year with a bit more in our treasury than at the start, thanks to the generosity of our members!



Honor Courtyard Brick *by Peter*



Recently the MSAA Executive Committee decided, for the first time in its history, to spend Association funds on a non-Massawepie project. You may be thinking: Sacrilege! However, there were several good reasons why the group felt that we should spend \$500 from our treasury to "buy a brick" in the Honor Courtyard at the new Seneca Waterways Council Servicenter.

What is the Honor Courtyard? It is an area at the entrance of the new council office which will consist of engraved bricks sponsored by various individuals and organizations. The funds raised from this project will be placed into an endowment to permanently fund the future maintenance and equipment of the Servicenter, which is now expected to open in June. For more information, or to sponsor your own brick, go to <http://www.senecawaterways.org/support-scouting/honor-courtyard/>.

Why should the MSAA support this project? First, the council office supports both the camps and the troops that the camps serve. Second, having a brick at the office engraved "Massawepie Staff Alumni Association," will be good advertising for the MSAA. Finally, we recognize that the office building will eventually need capital maintenance (such as a new roof), and if it doesn't have its own funding then it will be competing with the camps for the limited existing capital dollars. So starting this summer if you are in the area, please stop by the new Servicenter at 2320 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road (near Monroe Community College, just south of Rochester) and look for the MSAA brick that you helped to support!

Massawepie White Trail Bridge Replacement Project: MSAA 2014 Donor Option Fundraiser – “Bridge the Gap” *by Peter*

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Where is the longest bridge at Massawepie located? It's a foot bridge over the Massawepie Lake Outlet stream, on the 5-mile white trail loop around Massawepie Lake. Note: Many of you may have learned that this stream is the “Grasse River” – that's actually incorrect, but it does flow into the South Branch of the Grass (officially, or “Grasse” locally) River about two miles west from Massawepie Lake. If you're not familiar with the location of this stream, it exits Massawepie Lake's Long Bay, at the farthest end of the lake from Camp Pioneer.

Why is this bridge important? Each summer, hundreds of first-year Massawepie Scouts in the TrailBlazers program, along with some of their leaders and TB staff, hike around the lake on the white trail, getting their first glimpses of the wonders of Massawepie outside of Camp Pioneer. Other users of the white trail include troops on hikes or going to an outpost, St. Lawrence University students from the Adirondack Experience program in the fall, and local hikers using Massawepie under the NYS easement. But, like a chain, a trail is only as good as its weakest link. The Massawepie Outlet bridge, which is approximately 125 feet long, has been deteriorating for many years. In late summer of 2013 one of the bridge stringers broke, leaving that bridge section slanted at a dangerous angle and unsafe to use. The bridge must be replaced this spring, or there will be a gap in the white trail loop.

How will the bridge replacement be done? The bridge itself is fairly simple – the stringers are four pairs of wooden utility (“telephone”) poles, sitting on cribbing built of pieces of other utility poles, with wooden planking across the stringers. The real challenges are with the location and the cost. There are no roads nearby, and this bridge is at the northern, forested tip of the Massawepie Mire. The current bridge was apparently built in the late 1970s with the help of the 179th Engineering Company (Army? National Guard?) from Massena. (If you have more info on when or how this last rebuild happened, I'd love to hear from you.) But the Army has been rather busy lately, so without them how do we deliver large utility poles into a roadless swamp? The current thinking is that most of the materials will have to be transported on a revamped “party” boat (already on the reservation) across Massawepie Lake. Then, fearless volunteer crews working from boats and in frigid muck/water surrounded by swarms of blood-sucking insects will dismantle the old bridge, cut it up into pieces for removal, and build the new bridge. Let us know if you want to help during Pre-Skills Weekend May 9-11 and/or Beaver Weekend May 29 – June 1! This assumes that we have successfully obtained the necessary permits for wetland work by then from the APA and the NYS DEC.

How can the alumni association help Bridge the Gap? In 2014, we'll be collecting donations (our annual Donor Option) for the bridge project to offset some of the costs. Costs include buying new pressure-treated utility poles (old creosote-soaked poles are no longer allowed in wetlands), other lumber and hardware, and probably buying the used “party” boat that can be rigged both for material transport and as a work platform with hoist. Estimated material costs could be as high as \$10,000, though we hope to keep the costs down with some donated materials. The council will fund part of this project, but your donations will also be crucial in making it successful. As usual, anyone donating \$60 or more to the bridge project (and/or the Massawepie Square Foot Fund) in 2014 will receive a complimentary one-year membership or renewal in the MSAA. [The photo below shows the bridge from the south, looking north.]



Are You A Massawepie History Buff?

by George

Most of you are aware of the extensive history section on the MSAA web site. If you aren't, go to MassStaffAlumni.org right now and check it out! Naturally, most of the documents, photos and listings on our site relate to the years since the property became a Boy Scout camp. But there are other sites with historical information about the property.

For photos and photos of memorabilia relating to the Childwold Park Hotel, Peter Collinge reports that the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake has put their collection database online. To see, go to Adirondack.pastperfect-online.com/31694cgi/mweb.exe?request=random and search for Massawepie or Childwold Park. There are dozens of items, many with details of source location and more.

Rob Cunningham recently notified us about a site that has digitized newspapers from all over New York State from 1803 to 2010. This goes way beyond Massawepie, obviously. Go to nyshistoricnewspapers.org and you'll find search boxes to narrow your search for newspaper articles. You can click Tupper Lake in the City dropdown list (or not). You can type in St. Lawrence or Franklin in the County box. You can narrow your search by year range. Type Massawepie or Childwold Park in the Search box to get highlighted newspaper pages you can click to enlarge.

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INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Winter Gathering 2014!
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- Honor Courtyard Brick for MSAA!
- And more!

Visit us at masstaffalumni.org

TO:

Lively discussion at the Winter Gathering

Membership Renewal

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Annual renewal forms will be included with the Spring issue of Beaver Tales, to be delivered to you by May 10th. Be sure to renew, and invite a friend to join MSAA so we can increase our membership.



Go GREEN!

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The Executive Committee and 28 other members get Beaver Tales via e-mail. Five or more copies are hand delivered. At current postal rates, we save over \$22 per issue – about \$66 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 rather than my color ink jet printer, to save my donated time and expense. Send your request to George Varga, Editor at: gjvarga@rochester.rr.com . Thanks!

2014 EVENTS

- May 16**Annual 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!