

FALL 2021 BEAVER TALES

Photos by Editor and Others

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service
and Support since 2000!

Annnd We're Back! By Mary Beth

This past July 4th proved to be an exciting day as it not only marked our nation's birthday, but it also marked the reopening of our beloved summer camp. While Massawepie had seen countless visitors and campers throughout Summer 2020, it was not able to run an official summer camp due to COVID.



Thankfully, Summer 2021 proved to be a different story as Massawepie was able to welcome campers for its regular six week season. From the get-go, it was clear from the excitement in the air that everyone had greatly missed camp and was eager to be back. Though there were some changes in the regular day-to-day routines due to safety guidelines, that did not stop anyone from their camp fun.

The 2021 Camp Staff showed the true spirit of Massawepie as they picked up on songs, merit badges, and campfire skits as if no time had passed. Scouts were able to experience it all as they sailed on the lake, earned BarkEater, and attempted the climbing tower. Overall, Summer 2021 proved to be huge success as Massawepie once again showed us there's no place like camp.



Welcome to Massawepie! Sunday
greeting / check-in crew

The Loon Call

All, it is very exciting to write to you again after this summer's return toward normalcy at Massawepie. This past summer Massawepie held a successful six-week summer camp season, welcoming back staff, scouts, scouters, and friends.



Our return to camp would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Beaver Weekend 2021 hosted a large crowd, one of the largest in recent years! Getting camp ready for the summer held added challenges due to the lack of summer camp in 2020. The large MSAA presence at Beaver Weekend was astonishing - thank you to all who attended!

Additionally, many of our members visited camp during the summer season to support the 2021 staff. Their dedication over the summer helped provide the outstanding program and experience Massawepie is known for -- many thanks for your dedication.



We are proud of the efforts behind our 2021 Donor Option. All staff site cabin tents now have lighting and electrical outlets. This project has had a marked improvement on staff quality of life -- all contributions toward this project are greatly appreciated.

I hope to see all of you sometime between now and the start of Summer 2022, either at the Winter Gathering, the many camp work weekends, or our next Beaver Weekend.

Thank you for your spirit, service, and support. Stay safe and stay well. Yours,

- Jon Northrup

"I awoke this morning with
devout thanksgiving for my
friends, the new and the old."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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northrup.jonathan@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Mary Beth Boyle

Treasurer

Peter Collinge

Secretary

Tim Smith
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Christielee Geiger
Sean Glenney
Mike Knittel
David Lippitt
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Treasurer's Report as of 9/30/21 By Peter

Many thanks to our generous Massawepie alumni who have donated \$10,715 toward finishing the Staff Lounge refurbishing plus bringing electricity to the staff tents in the Junior Staff Site. The Staff Lounge was used during this past summer, and will get a few more finishing touches before 2022. Of the staff tents, 13 out of 16 had electricity (a switched light and four outlets per tent) before this past summer, and the other three were finished this fall 2021. **The original goal was to electrify eight staff tents in 2020 – thank you to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers who made completing this project possible!** We've also received donations of \$2,195 so far in 2021 to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (see separate article), plus a special donation of \$7,500 toward other Massawepie projects. At the end of 2020, our account balance was \$2,602. As of September 30, after the income and expenses shown below, our balance is up to \$3,612. Extra funds in our account are typically eventually used for staff recognition or donated toward a project or the Square Foot Fund. Our supply of embroidered blankets for 5th-year staffers is running low, so we'll need to reorder those before next summer, which will cost about \$600. Again, thanks to all of the members, donors and volunteers for making these projects and recognitions possible!

Category	(Through 9/30)	2021 Income	2021 Expense
Dues		\$1,045.00	
Administrative Expenses (mailing)			\$45.00
Camp Project (Staff tent electrification)		\$10,715.00	\$10,715.00
Other camp projects		\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Square Foot Endowment Fund		\$2,195.00	\$2,195.00
Memorabilia sales		\$10.00	
	Totals	\$21,465.00	\$20,455.00

Has your MSAA membership expired? If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, your membership has lapsed. Renew now to keep receiving this fine newsletter, and to keep supporting the future of Massawepie!

2022 Donor Option By Jon

This year's MSAA Donor Option will fund improvements to Staff cabin tents (tabins).

The Alumni Association has decided to fund these renovations to further improve the quality of life for our summer camp Staff. Through the addition of sheet-metal roofing, hardened sides, screened windows, and hinged doors, the staff cabin tents will be more water-tight and less buggy -- a much welcomed enhancement for our Staff. These renovations will also benefit the public, who will be able to rent the cabin tents during our Pioneer Family Camp program.

Ben Geiger, Property Superintendent, has developed a needs-based plan as to which cabin tents will be refurbished first. It is our hope that these improvements will deter future maintenance costs and canvas replacement expenses.

Donations collected for improvements will help fund: installing sheet-metal roofing, repairing flooring and walls, installing screening around the upper-half of walls, and the building of framed doors on the cabin tents.

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

MSAA donates toward new Piercefield Fire Hall By Peter

Ever since Massawepie Scout Camps opened in 1952, the Piercefield Volunteer Fire Company has provided fire and emergency service for the camp. Now the fire company needs help. The current fire hall is outdated and does not meet modern standards, so a new fire hall is needed. But Piercefield is a small town with limited resources and population. And Massawepie probably has the largest number of buildings, visitors, and employees of any property in Piercefield (at least in summer).

The Piercefield Volunteer Fire Company is working to raise money for the new fire hall. They hope to receive a state grant of \$100,000, but need to raise matching funds of \$50,000. A donor gave land for the new fire hall, a local contractor cleared the land at no cost, and they have done some fundraising. They still need to raise about \$30K. The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association discussed this project at its Nov. 1 meeting and decided to donate \$1,000 from Association funds on behalf of the many scouts, staff, and leaders who have been protected by the fire company over the years. Fortunately, the Alumni Association had an adequate surplus in its account, partly due to the lower expenses for staff recognitions in 2020 when the summer camp was closed down. Though Association funds are normally used at Massawepie, this project will certainly benefit Massawepie by assisting its fire protection.

If any MSAA members wish to donate directly to this project (hopefully in addition to your usual alumni donations), checks may be sent to Piercefield Volunteer Fire Company, P.O. Box 143, Piercefield, NY 12973.



Photo of "Hardened" Tabin at Mountaineer

Note from Ben Geiger: The tabin in the photo above is older and ready for a refresh. The "hardened" Pioneer staff tabins funded by the MSAA will be constructed with new siding and roofing materials.



MSAA Annual Meeting Minutes By Tim

Meeting notes were edited to fit available space – Kendall

Saturday, June 5, 2021 – Loren Hakes Campfire Circle, Massawepie

Attending: Scott Bischooping, Mary Beth Boyle, Rob Byers, Peter Collinge, Ethan Crist, Don DeClerck, Dick DePalma, Kathy Elliott, Jacob Emery, Brendan Flaherty, Christielee Geiger, Sean Glenney, Mike Knittel, Mark Kurtz, Sherry Kurtz, David Lippitt, Kate Merritt, Fred Nentwick, Jon Northrup, Mark Pulvino, Simon Conrad-Reingold, Tim Smith, Kendall Smith, Nancy Snyder, Matt Thurston, Laura Turner, Doris Turner, Doug Turner, George Varga, Rosemary Varga and Tim Webster.

Call to Order: Jon Northrup, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle at Camp Pioneer at Massawepie.

Welcome: Jon welcomed everyone to the 21st MSAA Annual meeting and extended thanks for all who are in attendance. He also thanked everyone for making the effort to attend Beaver Weekend this year. With the pandemic having shut down “normal” Camp operation the past 15 months, there was a lot that needs to be accomplished to welcome back Scouts.

Approval of 11/28/20 Annual Meeting minutes: In lieu of waiving the reading of the minutes from the 11/28/20 MSAA Annual Meeting, Secretary Tim Smith gave a synopsis of the meeting. After the synopsis was given, the minutes were approved/accepted as presented by a unanimous vote of those present.

Treasurer’s Report: Peter Collinge gave the Treasurer’s Report. He reported that the Association, as of 5/31/21, has a balance of \$2,896.63.

He noted that we have received two large donations this year from a MSAA member. These helped tremendously with the Staff Site upgrades/electrification and Staff Lounge improvements.

He reported that we have also received \$1,570 in donations for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment program.

Peter reported that since the founding of the MSAA in 2000, \$150,716 has been donated for Capital projects and the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment fund.

Peter reported that as of 5/31/21 there were 98 paid members. He noted that as June 5, we have surpassed 100 paid members.

Proposed Operating Rules Changes: During the winter of 2021, David Lippitt and Peter Collinge reviewed the MSAA Operating Rules. This has not been done since 2013 and it was felt that there were wording changes that were needed to update/clarify the rules. The suggested changes were presented to the MSAA Executive Committee at the April Executive Committee meeting and approved for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting. Peter went through the changes. There was a brief discussion by those present after which a motion was made by David Lippitt, seconded by Brendan Flaherty to accept the updated Operating Rules as presented. There was no further discussion and the motion was passed by a unanimous vote of those present.

Peter said that the SWC Camp Operations Committee needs to approve the changes. A copy of the updated Operating Rules will be posted on the MSAA website after their next meeting.

Election of Officers for 2021-2022: Jon Northrup presented the proposed slate of Officers and Members at Large for the MSAA. The accepted slate as presented can be found on page 1.

Open Forum: Peter Collinge announced that Kathy Elliott (nee Hakes), the first MSAA Chair, was recently elected as the Seneca Waterways Council VP - Camping (Program & Promotion). Congratulations Kathy!

Mark Pulvino spoke about the new program of mentors for Summer Camp Staff. The mentor would be a subject matter “expert” (through training or life experience) to assist Camp Staff members. The mentor can spend a day, several days a week or the summer helping the staff in their program areas. He cited Kendall Smith who has been a mentor for the Field Sports area (he is a past Field Sports Director at Massawepie).

Jon recognized and thanked Rob Byers for his 7+ years of dedicated service to Camp doing literally anything that needed to be done.

The Loon Call: Jon noted that as a group and individually, the MSAA has dedicated thousands of hours of service to help maintain Camp through a difficult year. Alumni volunteered long hours and days to help Ben Geiger keep Camp “normal” during the Pandemic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. The annual Association photo was taken (a copy of which is on the MSAA website).

Respectfully submitted by Tim Smith, Secretary

Massawepie History Website Updates By Peter

The Alumni Association’s Massawepie History Website has a growing collection of staff photos from all four Massawepie camps plus Central, CIT, Trek, and Ranger staffs posted [at http://massstaffalumni.org/Photos.htm](http://massstaffalumni.org/Photos.htm) . Is your photo there? There are an impressive number of photos from the 1950s and 1960s, but some more recent ones are missing (like all of Pioneer 2003 – 2013).

If you can add any photos to those posted, please scan and send them to Peter Collinge at collinge@localnet.com , or mail clear copies to Peter at 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534. Information on missing names from the photo keys will also be appreciated. And thanks goes out to the many former staffers who have supplied some of these photos or identified the names – you know who you are!



BEAVER WEEKEND 2021



THANK YOU to ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

It takes a Village By Christielee

How often have I heard that saying in my lifetime?

It wasn't until I moved to Massawepie that I truly saw that old age saying become a reality before my eyes, because honestly, it takes a village. From water system and electricity, to repairing and putting up tents, maintaining and improving buildings and taking care of the grounds, just to name a few examples of the many things that are cared for by the hands of volunteers.

How amazing was it to see so many wonderful people come together, after a year of hibernation due to the pandemic, stronger than ever! With an astounding number of volunteers, it was the biggest turn out Ben and I have seen during a Beaver Weekend since we started as Rangers in 2009. Every day we count our blessings for the dedication behind every volunteer who comes to Massawepie. No project is too big or small, every little bit counts, and we are ever so grateful to each one of you who views Massawepie as your home sweet home, always leaving it in better condition than you found it!

What more can I say? *It takes a Village.*



Photo: Mark Kurtz



All photos courtesy of the MSAA Facebook page except where noted.

SAVE THE DATE! Beaver Weekend - June 3-5, 2022

Calling all MSAA members, family, and friends! This event is our largest and most important work weekend. Meals and accommodations are provided. For more info, or to volunteer for or suggest a project, contact Ben Geiger, Property Superintendent, at (518) 359-3900 or ben.geiger@scouting.org.

Member News By Peter

As of October 10, the MSAA has 101 paid members. That's a wonderful increase of about 15 members in the past year, and means we have passed our long-time goal of having 100 members. Please encourage a friend to join – let's pass 110 members!

New members since the Spring newsletter:

- Rob Byers has had 13 years on staff starting as a CIT in 1970, and has been a staff mainstay as the Pioneer Shooting Sports Director in recent years.
- Donny & Brendon DeClerck have both been on Cutler staff and came to 2021 Beaver Weekend to help their father Don DeClerck, and say they will be back!
- Matt Denney was on the 2021 Camp Pioneer staff as Dining Hall Steward.
- Daniel Dimpfl served on the Camp Voyageur Waterfront in 1964-65, and was the Mountaineer Program Director in 1971. He also worked at Camp Cutler in 1972.
- Mike Goodman was a Troop 5 (NJ) Scout at Camp Pioneer 2008-15 and will be a Troop 5 leader in 2021.
- Joe Jackson from New Hampshire has been a volunteer and was on the 2021 Camp Pioneer Rifle Range staff.
- Bradley Schaeffer was on Mountaineer staff for 3 years starting as a CIT in 1988.
- Timothy Webster has been on camp staff 4 years since 2016.

Other Alumni Association members who served on the 2021 Camp Pioneer staff were: Mary Beth Boyle as Asst. Camp Director, Matt Thurston as Program Director, Sean Glenney as Health Director, George & Rosemary Varga helping to oversee and manage the Trading Post, Scott Bischooping and Kendall Smith and Christielee Geiger and Jon Northrup as volunteers, and of course Ben Geiger as Property Superintendent. Don DeClerck continued as Seneca Waterways Council's overall Camp Operations Director.

Square Foot Endowment Fund Supports Massawepie! By Peter

What is "the gift that keeps on giving" for Massawepie? Donations to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund support Massawepie now and for the future! All funds received are invested, and 5% of the fund balance (averaged over the past five years) is taken out each year to support maintenance and equipment at Massawepie.

Thanks in part to over \$65,000 raised by the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association since 2000, the Square Foot Fund now generates over \$4,400 each year for Massawepie. Details are as follows:

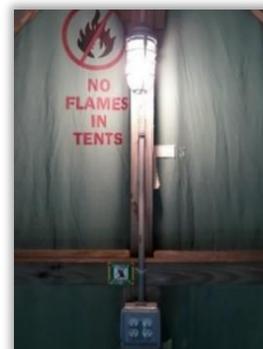
Dec., 2019 Fund Balance \$135,952

Removed in 2020 for Massawepie use - \$ 4,404

New donations added in 2020 + \$ 4,350

Investment gain in 2020 + \$ 7,986

Dec., 2020 Fund Balance \$143,884



2020 Donor Option – Staff
Tabin Electrification

Donations can be made to the Square Foot fund with your Alumni Association membership renewal, as a memorial or tribute gift to the council designated for the Square Foot Fund, from an IRA, or as a designated beneficiary in your will.

For more information or to discuss details, see senecawaterways.org/square-foot-fund/ or contact the Seneca Waterways Council's Director of Development, Tony Vogl at 585-241-8556 or Tony.Vogl@Scouting.org.

Upcoming 70th Anniversary of Massawepie By Brendan

Summer of 2022 will mark Massawepie's 70th anniversary! The campers arrived for the first summer camp season at Camp Pioneer on June 28th, 1952. In the past 70 years, Massawepie has served thousands of campers and made countless memories. In honor of the 70th anniversary, the Massawepie Facebook page will be keeping up with the events of 1951-1952 as the property was purchased by the Scouts and developed into a Scout Camp just in time to open for the 1952 season.

Some of the key events in Fall 1951-Winter 1952 included:

Late September 1951 - After a long search and negotiation, Otetiana Council purchases Massawepie from the Sykes family.

September 26, 1951 - Harley Burgdorf starts as Property Superintendent. Burgdorf would serve nearly 15 years in this position, and oversee the development of Pioneer, Mountaineer, and Voyageur.

September 30, 1951 - Otetiana launches a \$450,000 Capital Campaign to raise the funds for the purchase and development of Massawepie, as well as improvements at Camp Cutler in Webster. Scouts also camped at Massawepie (and got lost!) for the first time since the purchase this weekend during a development meeting at camp.

November 29, 1951 - The first campsites in Pioneer are staked out and cleared.

December 11, 1951 - The Dining Hall road is cleared.

February-March 1952 - Tent platforms as well as Dining Hall tables and benches are completed.

March 27, 1951 - The Council Camping Committee sent a letter updating troop leaders on development progress and apologizing that the 2500-plus spots available in Pioneer for 1952 will not meet the demand for camping, but promising more spots in 1953 with the addition of Camp Mountaineer.



Harley Burgdorf

MSAA 2022 WINTER GATHERING

Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at 1:00 PM

Stevens-Connor Lehigh Valley Lodge, 2611 Pinnacle Rd., Rush, NY 14543

The MSAA is excited to announce our in-person 2022 Winter Gathering on Saturday January 8 at Stevens-Connor Lehigh Valley Lodge, beginning at 1:00 PM! This is a great opportunity to share and relive our memories of Massawepie! Please feel free to bring memorabilia, photos, memories and friends. There will be games and Massawepie trivia, along with remarks from MSAA Executive Committee members.

There is a \$5.00 per person fee (payable to Peter Collinge at the event, cash or check), to cover expenses. Paper goods, utensils, bottled water, soft drinks, and ice will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own beverage of choice. *If you imbibe, please do so responsibly, and/or bring a designated driver.*

We ask that all attendees bring a dish to pass for the event. Please follow the assignments below so that we have an equal spread of food.

- Those whose last year on staff was 1952-1975, please bring a dessert.
- Those whose last year on staff was 1976-2000, please bring a hot dish.
- Those whose last year on staff was 2001-2021, please bring a snack or salad.
- Friends of Massawepie & the MSAA may choose from any of the above options.

We NEED to know how many will be attending. Email Jon Northrup at northrup.jonathan@gmail.com or call at 315-791-2010 with the names and numbers attending. Please respond no later than Sunday, December 19th!

We hope to see you there! Please invite friends from camp staff who may not be on our list. If your membership has expired, please join us, and renew at the event!



Stevens-Connor Lehigh Valley Lodge



Catamount Pond in September 2021
Photo: Rob Byers



Scouter Gone Home: Ranger Marley

Ranger Marley, the beloved Camp Dog and 12+ year companion to Ben, Christielee, Abigail, Bradley and so many others crossed over the Rainbow Bridge in late October 2021. She was a good dog and passed quietly overlooking Catamount Pond surrounded by her family.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

– Winnie The Pooh

MASSAWEPIE OCTOBER ODYSSEY

By Brendan

The 2nd Massawepie October Odyssey was held October 8th-11th. Nearly 150 Scouts, Venturers, and leaders used Camp Pioneer as their base for adventure as they competed in a property-wide and Adirondack-wide scavenger hunt. Examples of challenges included finding the Tree of Girth, visiting the Highview geologic marker, finding all the climbing towers on property, climbing mountains, visiting a local business, and much much more! Summer camp staff (some of them alumni members) put on great programs at Climbing, Archery, Scoutcraft, and Field Sports, while Tim Smith led a crew providing delicious meals for staff and campers. A highlight of the weekend was the campfire program featuring executive committee members Christielee, Mary Beth, Jon, and Brendan. Troop 31 took home the championship trophy for the weekend, but a great time was had by all (participants and staff)!

To help with future outdoor challenge events, contact Ben Geiger or Brendan.

