

FALL 2022 BEAVER TALES

Photos via MSC Facebook page

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service
and Support since 2000!

Summer 2022 AKA Groovy, Happy, Fun Time!

By Mary Beth

This summer marked our beloved camp's 70th anniversary and it was indeed just that... groovy, happy, and fun! Scouts and leaders alike were thrilled to be back at camp and eager to celebrate the milestone. To celebrate the 70th anniversary, the Trading Post had plenty of groovy swag including colorful tie-dye and some exclusive patches needed for any worthwhile collection. (That might be a shameless plug by a biased co-creator.)



During its six-week run, camp saw just under 1,500 scouts and around 600 leaders and adults. Their enjoyment of camp was clear as the majority of troops signed up for summer 2023 by the end of their week stay. Notably, weeks one and two had 100% of troops recommit for next summer! In thinking about the beautiful property and the plethora of opportunities it provides, it is no wonder everyone wants to come back.

However, the real reason for 70 years of success remains true – dedicated staff. There have been changes to camp over the years but one thing that hasn't changed is the commitment of the staff, and this summer's crew certainly continued that tradition. From early polar bear mornings to late evenings putting on BarkEater ceremonies our staff did it all!

To continue the staffing tradition, it was exciting to have around 20 CITs (counselors in training) join the program this summer. Even with the hard work, being a Massawepie staff member continues to be a desired position. Notable this summer was the representation of our Alumni Association at camp. In knowing all that staffing entails, our Alumni Association stepped up its support as members were present all throughout the summer helping with everything from teaching classes to commissioning troops and washing dishes. As they say, not all heroes wear capes!



A majority of troops signed up for Summer 2023!

As Massawepie blows out its 70th birthday candles, it brings many nostalgic memories back to light. As we look at the accomplishments we've had throughout our years and especially in our most recent summer, Massawepie once again shows there's no place like camp.

The Loon Call

This past summer I had the pleasure to return to camp staff after a several year hiatus. It was a real honor to be asked to serve as Massawepie's business manager in 2022. While there were some things that had changed since I was last on staff, the Massawepie experience as a whole was comfortingly similar.



It seems that this past summer especially had MSAA members leap into action to support our camp. Together as an Association we:

- Funded and constructed additional hardened staff cabin tents,
- Supported staff members over the weekend and on their day off, and
- Dutifully scrubbed and scoured pots, pans, and trays in the constantly busy dishroom.

Thank you to all MSAA members for the many ways in which you supported camp!

I look forward to celebrating Massawepie's 70th anniversary at our November gathering, details of which are included in this newsletter.

As always, thank you for your spirit, service, and support.

- Jon Northrup

Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.

Randy Pausch



Executive Committee

Chair

Jon Northrup

northrup.jonathan@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Mary Beth Boyle

Treasurer

Peter Collinge

Secretary

Tim Smith

timsmith3656@gmail.com

Past Chair

Freddy Stein

M-a-L & BT Editor

Kendall Smith

kas9653@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

Brendan Flaherty

Christielee Geiger

Mike Knittel

David Lippitt

Mark Pulvino

Tim Webster

MSAA USPS Address

MSAA

Seneca Waterways Council

2320 Brighton-Henrietta TL Rd

Rochester, NY 14623

MSAA E-mail

MassawepieAlumni@yahoo.com

MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org

Treasurer's Report as of 9/30/22 By Peter

Many thanks to our generous Massawepie alumni who have donated \$10,155 toward the staff tabin hardening project. The four former staff tent/cabins (aka tabins) behind the camp office now have wooden walls and a metal roof, and were used by female members of the 2022 camp staff. Several other tabins were also hardened in the junior staff site and used to house senior staff to provide the required supervision for the junior staff. We've also received donations of \$1,265 so far in 2022 to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (see separate article), plus special and extremely generous donations of \$23,500 toward other Massawepie projects.

At the end of 2021, our account balance was \$2,579. As of September 30, after the income and expenses shown below, our balance is up to \$4,001. Extra funds in our account are typically eventually used for staff recognition or donated toward a project or the Square Foot Fund. This year, we did donate \$350 to dedicate a Square Yard of Massawepie in honor of Don DeClerck's retirement as Camp Operations Director, including his 22 years as Massawepie Staff Alumni Association advisor. Again, thanks to all of the members, donors and volunteers for making these projects and recognitions possible!



New hardened staff tabins



Peter taking one for the team!

| Category | (Through 9/30) | 2022 Income | 2022 Expense |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dues | | \$893.00 | |
| Administrative Expenses (mailing) | | | \$34.32 |
| Camp Project (Staff tabin hardening) | | \$10,155.00 | \$10,155.00 |
| Other camp projects (transferred to council) | | \$23,500.00 | \$23,500.00 |
| Square Foot Endowment Fund (incl. Sq. Yd. in honor of Don DeClerck's retirement) | | \$1,265.00 | \$1,615.00 |
| Memorabilia sales | | \$1,300.00 | |
| Staff recognition blankets (incl. a donation) | | \$300.00 | \$687.24 |
| Totals | | \$37,413.00 | \$35,991.56 |

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!

2023 Donor Option By Jon

Each year the Alumni Association picks a project at camp for its members to support with donations. Next year's MSAA Donor Option will fund improvements to Massawepie's sailing program.

The Alumni Association has decided to support the sailing program as a number of the camp's sailboats have been retired due to years of wear and tear. Massawepie's sailing program includes three weekly sessions of Sailing Merit Badge, along with nine weekly open sailing sessions for Scouts and adult leaders. There are currently only eight fully-operational sailboats at camp for this popular program!

Donations collected for improvements will help fund: purchasing new or gently used Sunfish sailboat hulls and purchasing Sunfish-specific parts and hardware. The MSAA Executive Committee is currently investigating cost-effective options and inventory of new and like-new sailboat hulls for purchase.

Please consider donating to these sailing program improvements so that camp can continue to offer outstanding opportunities to our Scouting youth!

70th Anniversary Gathering - Saturday, November 26th

The MSAA is excited to announce our in-person 70th Anniversary Gathering on Saturday, November 26th at Stevens-Connor Lehigh Valley Lodge (2611 Pinnacle Road in Rush). We will begin at 1:00 PM and end at 4:00 PM. Former camp staff who are not current MSAA members are also welcome.

There will be games and Massawepie trivia, along with brief remarks from MSAA Executive Committee members. In addition, please bring (and share) your Massawepie memorabilia, photos and memories.

Assorted submarine sandwiches with fixings will be provided, along with bottled water and soft drinks. Attendees are also welcome to bring a beverage of their choice.

And please bring a dish to pass for the event. If your last year on staff was 1952-1990, bring an appetizer. If your last year on staff was 1991-2022, bring a dessert. Friends of Massawepie may bring either an appetizer or dessert.

There is no cost due to the generosity of Phil Bartels, an Alumni Association member. 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, November 20th.



Latest MSAA Meeting Minutes By Tim

Meeting notes were edited to fit available space – Kendall

Annual Beaver Weekend Meeting: June 4, 2022

The MSAA held the 2022 Annual Meeting in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle at Camp Pioneer on Saturday, June 4th. 29 Members attended the meeting.

Mary Beth Boyle, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Jon Northrup, Chair, was unable to attend due to a recent positive COVID diagnosis. Tim Smith, Secretary, made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the 2021 Annual meeting. The motion was approved by those in attendance. Peter Collinge, Treasurer, made the Treasurer's Report. As of 5/31/22, the MSAA has a balance of \$2,187.59. He further reported that since 6/21/21 there has been \$33,770 in income and \$34,162 in expenses. He had also received \$380 in dues, as well as \$500 for projects, that weekend. Peter reported that as of 5/31/22 there were 103 paid members.

The Slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for 2022-23 was presented verbally. Officers: Chair – Jon Northrup, Vice Chair – Mary Beth Boyle, Treasurer – Peter Collinge, and Secretary – Tim Smith. Members-at-Large: Don DeClerck, Brendan Flaherty, Christielee Geiger, Mike Knittel, David Lippitt, Mark Pulvino, Kendall Smith, and Tim Webster. Mary Beth called for any nominations from the floor and there were none. Mary Beth made a motion to accept the Slate of Officers and Members-at-Large as presented and there was no objection or discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of those present.

David Lippitt announced that the Massawepie 70th Anniversary event will be held on Saturday, November 26th in Rochester at a site to be determined.

Brendan Flaherty presented Rosemary Varga with her 40-Year Veterans Award and George Varga with his 50-Year Veterans Award. They were unable to attend the Council's Recognition in May to receive these notable honors. Kendall Smith announced that George Varga, our original Beaver Tales Editor is retiring after 16 years. Kendall presented George with a framed copy of the newsletter from Spring 2006 signed by members of the Executive Committee.



Mary Beth noted that as a group and individually, MSAA members have dedicated thousands of hours to help maintain Camp during these extraordinary times. Their volunteering has helped Ben Geiger keep camp "normal."

It was announced that Mary Beth Boyle will be the 2022 Camp Director. She noted that she first came to Massawepie 25 years ago and her father, Bill, was a Camp Staff member in the late 1970's. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm and the annual group photo was taken.

Exec Committee Meeting: October 13, 2022

The MSAA Executive Committee held a hybrid meeting on Thursday, October 14th. The minutes from the Annual Meeting were given verbally by Tim Smith and there were no exceptions noted. Peter gave the Treasurer's Report. As of 9/30/22 the MSAA has a balance of \$4,000.59. He reported that in 2022 there has been \$37,413 in income and \$35,591.56 in expenses. He further reported that the MSAA received a donation of a box of Camp memorabilia in the Spring from an anonymous donor. Mike Knittel has inventoried the contents and has been selling items in-person and on-line. To date the sale has realized more than \$1,300. The 2023 Donor Option will be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. Peter is suggesting that we consider a program item(s) this year.

Kendall distributed the article assignments and timeline for the Fall edition of Beaver Tales. The deadline for articles is November 1st with a projected mailing date of November 14th. He reported that he mails approximately 40 copies of the newsletter and the balance are sent electronically. There was a brief discussion regarding confusion about people who are members of the MSAA Facebook page thinking that they are members of the MSAA. There will be further discussion to follow.

The Massawepie 70th Anniversary celebration will be on Saturday, November 26th at the Stevens-Connor Lehigh Valley Lodge in Rush. The MSAA will provide either pizza or submarine sandwiches and attendees will be asked to bring snacks or dessert. Attendees will also provide their beverages of choice.

Mary Beth reported on the 2022 Camp season. She said that overall, it was a good year. There were 1,400+ campers. While there were some challenges the Staff rose to the occasion, as always. During weeks 1 & 2, 100% of the troops signed up to return in 2023 and during weeks 3-6 a high percentage committed for 2023. Several troops said they are returning but need to confirm dates and leadership.

In late October, Peter Collinge will be working with students from St. Lawrence University, who are participating in the semester at camp, to blaze a new trail to the Shotgun Range in Camp Pioneer.

David Lippitt reported that there have been preliminary discussions about what would be needed for Massawepie to be considered a "regional camp". These discussions are taking place as part of the development of the Council's new strategic plan.

The next MSAA Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1st.

BEAVER WEEKEND 2022

THANK YOU to ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!



This past summer, I had the pleasure and privilege of being on the 2022 Camp Pioneer staff as the Senior Commissioner! To all of camp's volunteers on Beaver Weekend, during the summer, and/or throughout the seasons, thank you so much for everything that you do. Massawepie's success is truly built upon a strong foundation of dedicated and passionate volunteers!

With gratitude, Kendall



SAVE THE DATE!

Beaver Weekend - June 2-4, 2023

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.



How Childwold Got Its Name

NOTE from Peter Collinge: The following article first appeared in the October, 1961 issue of "The Quarterly," and is reprinted here by permission of the St. Lawrence County Historical Association. Childwold is a small hamlet on NYS Route 3 just west of the Massawepie entrance, within the town of Piercefild. It is probably best known for the historic Childwold Memorial Presbyterian Church and for the Thirsty Moose Pub and Grub (formerly Walt Dumas' Restaurant and Bar), and for being the fictional namesake of the town in a book of the same name by Joyce Carol Oates. The hotel mentioned was the Childwold Park House, later the Hotel Childwold, located in what is now the Massawepie Camp Pioneer parade field.

By BEULAH DOROTHY - Piercefild

Addison Child, a stately Bostonian, at about the age of fifty-five, came to Potsdam in the early spring of 1878 and mailed a small handbill to all the postmasters in St. Lawrence County, giving notice that he owned a large tract of land near Massawepie Lake in St. Lawrence County, and that he would sell small portions of this tract to purchasers for farms at the low price of from one to three dollars per acre. He could be found in the future, he said, on the lands mentioned. Many people thought that "the old man", as he was referred to, was insane to start such a wild scheme, since this tract of land was nearly all wilderness with scarcely any roads leading to it. The bills were sent to the various postmasters and he asked that they be conspicuously posted. This act was the birth of Childwold, located about two miles northwest of Massawepie Lake.

Mr. Child, when asked what the name of his hamlet would be, replied, "'Child' for my name and 'wold,' which means high rolling land", therefore Childwold was named. In 1884, April 1, the first post office was established as Childwood and its name was changed to Childwold in 1884, April 22, at the request of Mr. Child, who was also the postmaster. As soon as logs could be cut, Mr. Child built for himself a log house in the center of the new settlement. The house since has been remodeled and is occupied by the Bancroft family, whose father purchased it from Mr. Child's estate in 1899.

For the next ten years he kept busy looking after his tenants and the development of his hamlet. Among other things, he built a thunder-shower sawmill on the outlet of Jock Pond, to aid in building houses and coverings for the inhabitants who had read his posted handbills and migrated to Childwold. Most of these people came from the towns of Colton and Pierrepont and some from the state of Vermont.

Even though there were no modern or even good gravel roads leading into this little town, it flourished under the guiding hand of Mr. Child. The land was cleared and prosperous farms appeared. Then the problem arose of what to do with the excess farm produce. Mr. Child at once came up with the answer. In 1889 he erected a great hotel on the shores of beautiful Massawepie Lake. As his other projects had flourished and paid off, so did his big hotel, which accomodated more than 300 guests plus a dozen or more guest cottages on the lake shore. Many leading personalities visited this beautiful spot, including some of our own United States presidents and British royalty.

The resort eventually fell into decay and has been recently taken over and restored for use as a Boy Scout camp.

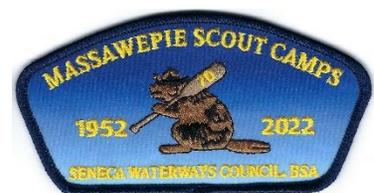
For nine years, Mr. Child lived to realize his dreams of a great hotel and a prosperous farming and lumbering community. Then in 1897 he died in his home in Childwold and his body was sent back to Boston, Mass., for burial. Although he was married and had one child, his wife never came to Childwold and it was assumed she died before he settled here. So ends the story of a man, who in late life lived to see his dreams fulfilled; and now his memory lives on, in the inhabitants of Childwold village.

Square Foot Endowment Fund Supports Massawepie! By Peter

Why would someone donate \$50 to dedicate a square foot (or \$350 for a square yard) of 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 average fund balance 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 \$6,100 each year for Massawepie. Details are as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Dec., 2020 Fund Balance | \$143,884 |
| Removed during 2021 for Massawepie use | - \$ 6,149 |
| New donations added in 2021 | + \$ 2,445 |
| <u>Investment gain in 2021</u> | <u>+ \$17,997</u> |
| Dec., 2021 Fund Balance | \$158,177 |



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. And this is a very good time to dedicate a square foot for only \$50, because that cost may be going up in 2023.

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.

Member News By Peter

As of October 15, the Alumni Association has 102 paid members, so we are maintaining our long-time goal of having 100+ members. Please encourage a friend to join – let's try to pass 110 members!

New members since the Spring newsletter:

- Daryl Lehman, a Massawepie volunteer who joined as a Friend of Massawepie
- Cordell Reynolds, who served as Handicraft Director in 2022, his 5th year on staff
- Eric Wurster, who again served as a Lifeguard in 2022 for his 2nd year on staff



Other Alumni Association members who served on the 2022 Camp Pioneer staff were: Mary Beth Boyle as Camp Director, Christielee Geiger as Asst. Camp Director, Matt Thurston as Program Director, Jon Northrup as Business Manager, Kendall Smith as Senior Commissioner, Matt Denney as Steward, and of course Ben Geiger as Property Superintendent. Scott Bischooping, Bill Boyle, Peter Collinge, Ethan Crist, Don DeClerck, Kathy Elliott, Brendan Flaherty, Joe Jackson, Jon S. Northrup, Tim Smith, and Rosemary Varga helped at various times as volunteers during the summer. Sorry if we missed anyone!



Photo: Brendan

MSAA member Irene Cheney handcrafted one set of new grace signs for the Pioneer Dining Hall! Her gift is dedicated in memory of Dave Cheney, Camp Director in 2015 & 2016.



MASSAWEPIE SUMMIT CHALLENGE

By Brendan

The inaugural Massawepie Summit Challenge was held at camp October 7-10! Our goal was to collectively reach 1,500 hiking miles between all attendees - each mile hiked by each participant and staff member counted toward the total. With 65 participants plus the staff and work weekend volunteers, we reached 1,209.44 miles. Scouts enjoyed the beautiful Adirondack leaf season as well as some fun program in camp. While we were short of our mileage goal, this was a tremendous showing! We can't wait to beat that total when the event comes around again in 2025!

Thank you to the Alumni Association members who came and supported the event and the work weekend, especially to the wonderful cook crew - Tim, Scott, and Kathy! Our next alumni-supported Outdoor Challenge is the **Massawepie Arctic Challenge, January 13-16, 2023**. And save the date for October 6-9, 2023 when we introduce a new Challenge - putting Scouts on top of all the accessible Adirondack Fire Towers! If you would like to be involved in the planning or operation of these events, please contact myself or Ben Geiger.



Christielee's Massawepie Summit Challenge achievement board!