

FALL 2023 BEAVER TALES

Photos via Facebook & Others

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Summer 2023 Recap! By Peter Huber, 2023 Program Director

This summer at Massawepie was one for the books! Over 1,500 scouts and over 70 staff members traveled from across the country to the Adirondacks for an experience unlike any other scout camp to make memories that will last a lifetime. See [Page 5](#) for an article on new offerings this past summer from each program area.



A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers for all of the work they did to keep our camp going. Whether you were there for one day, or the whole summer, your expertise and passion made Massawepie amazing. I look forward to seeing what's in store for Massawepie next summer!

Thank you, Phil Bartels!

Philip Bartels, an attorney from Riverside, CT, was a Scout camper at Camp Mountaineer in 1961-65, then worked there in 1967-68. In 1967 he was a Commissioner's Aide, then he was Nature Director in 1968. In 2013, Phil joined the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association, and soon began including additional contributions with his dues payments. In recent years, he stepped up those contributions significantly, and in 2023 he has made major contributions to Massawepie through the MSAA (see separate Treasurer's Report).

Phil's past contributions have helped a number of the Alumni Association's annual projects at camp. In addition, he has contributed toward work weekend food, kitchen equipment, staff recognition items, replacement utility poles, expenses for moving equipment and sheds from Babcock-Hovey to Massawepie, and some needed upgrades for the (1952) ranger's house. In Phil Bartels' words, he's happy to help keep Massawepie "such a fine place for the generations of young Scouts to enjoy and experience and at which they can learn so many things." **Thank you for your continued and generous support, Phil!!**

The Loon Call

All, I hope this newsletter finds you well. I would like to share a poem with you that I first found while reading a plaque many years ago in the Pioneer Dining Hall.

*These are the things I prize,
And hold of dearest worth:
Light of the sapphire skies,
Peace of the silent hills,
Shelter of forests, comfort of the grass,
Music of birds, murmur of little rills,
Shadow of clouds that swiftly pass,
And, after showers,
The smell of flowers
And of the good brown earth,
And best of all, along the way, friendship and mirth.*

As you read this newsletter, compiled by our MSAA Executive Committee and others, I hope that you can recall all the memories of friendship and mirth Massawepie has offered and dream about many opportunities yet to come.

As always, thank you for your spirit, service, and support! **Jon Northrup**



*Providing Spirit, Service
and Support since 2000!*

*Lord, take me where You want me to go;
let me meet who You want me to meet;
tell me what You want me to say;
and keep me out of Your way!*

Fr. Mychal Judge

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

Bill Boyle
Don DeClerck
Brendan Flaherty
Christielee Geiger
Mike Knittel
David Lippitt
Mark Pulvino

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

*The test of our progress is not
whether we add more to the
abundance of those who have
much, it is whether we provide
enough for those who have little.*

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Treasurer's Report as of 9/30/23 By Peter

Many thanks to our generous Massawepie alumni who have donated \$2,990 toward the Massawepie sailing program improvements. This project morphed a bit when a number of good quality Sunfish from the now-closed Camp Babcock-Hovey became available and were transferred to Massawepie, thus both expanding the Massawepie fleet and allowing some older hulls to be retired. But there is still an ongoing need for sailboat equipment like sails, rudders, and daggerboards, and the funds raised will supply those now and into the future. We've also received donations of \$1,540 so far in 2023 to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (see separate article), plus special and extremely generous donations of \$100,000 (see separate article) toward other Massawepie projects.



2023 Camp Pioneer Waterfront Staff

At the end of 2022, our account balance was \$4,236. As of September 30, after the income and expenses shown below, our balance is up to \$4,869. Extra funds in our account are typically eventually used for staff recognition or donated toward a project or to the Square Foot Fund. This year, we did give out 11 "3-year staffer" shirts to those eligible on the 2023 staff, and three blankets to 5th year staffers, along with again donating insignia for the CITs. Again, thanks to all of the MSAA members, donors, and volunteers for making these projects and recognitions possible!

Category	(Through 9/30)	2023 Income	2023 Expense
Dues		\$865.00	
Administrative Expenses (mailing)			\$74.81
Camp Project (Sailing program support)		\$2,990.00	\$2,990.00
Other camp projects (transferred to council)		\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Square Foot Endowment Fund		\$1,540.00	\$1,540.00
Memorabilia sales		\$15.00	
Staff recognition (insignia for CITs)			\$171.31
Totals		\$105,410.00	\$104,776.12

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!

Square Foot Endowment Fund Supports Massawepie! By Peter

What does it mean to 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 \$68,000 raised by the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association since 2000, the Square Foot Fund now generates over \$6,500 each year for Massawepie. Details are as follows:

Dec. 2021 Fund Balance	\$158,177
Removed during 2022 for Massawepie use	- \$ 6,528
New donations added in 2022	+ \$ 2,440
Investment loss in 2022	- \$27,377
	=====
Dec. 2022 Fund Balance	\$126,711



You may notice that 2022 was a bad year for investments. That unfortunately happens, but there are more good years than bad, and the fund has grown over time. I'm sure that it has already recovered much of the 2022 loss in 2023.

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 2024.



2023 Camp Pioneer Ranger Staff & Equipment in Action

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.

Latest MSAA Meeting Minutes By Tim

Meeting notes were edited to fit available space – Kendall

Annual Beaver Weekend Meeting: June 3, 2023

The MSAA held the 2023 Annual Meeting in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle at Camp Pioneer on Saturday, June 3rd. 28 Members attended the meeting. Chair Jon Northrup presided over the meeting.

The minutes from the 2022 Annual meeting were recapped by Secretary Tim Smith. The Treasurer's Report was given by Peter Collinge. As of 5/31/23, the balance is \$4,416.25 and there are 107 paid members. He reported that he received a new membership and several membership renewals on the weekend. He also reported that since January 1, 2023, the MSAA has received 3 checks totaling \$100,000 from an Association member from Connecticut. There was a brief discussion regarding ordering new MSAA logo hats/shirts. It was noted that with the 75th Anniversary of Massawepie in 2027, we ought to wait to order anything.

Mary Beth Boyle, 2022 Camp Reservation Director reported that more than 1,500 youth and adults experienced the magic of MSC in 2022. She thanked the Association members that volunteered countless hours.

The proposed slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for election for 2023-2024 was presented: Chair – Jon Northrup, Vice Chair – Mary Beth Boyle, Treasurer – Peter Collinge and Secretary – Tim Smith. Members-at-Large: Bill Boyle, Don DeClerck, Christielee Geiger, Mike Knittel, David Lippitt, Mark Pulvino and Kendall Smith. Jon asked for any nominations from the floor and there none. Jon motioned to accept the slate as presented. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of those present.

Peter presented the 2023 Donor Option which is to support the sailing program at MSC. As of May 31, 2023, \$2,205 has been received.

Brendan Flaherty, 2023 Camp Reservation Director, reported that there are a few staff positions still available. He is expecting more than 1,500 youth in Camp this summer. He also reported that Camp Mountaineer will be opened for Family Camping during July and Christielee Geiger will be the Family Camp Director.

Mike Knittel announced that for the first time, there will be a 5-day Wood Badge training course held at MSC in August. David Lippitt reported that the Council Executive Board adopted a Strategic Plan that calls for MSC to become a premier Scout Camp in the Region.

Jon Northrup was recognized and thanked for his continued commitment and leadership. He noted not only the number of volunteers but the depth of their experience and commitment. We are the beneficiary of their time, talent and treasure.



2023 MSAA "Serious" Photo



2023 MSAA "Silly" Photo



Executive Committee Meeting: October 3, 2023

Peter Collinge said the current balance is \$4,869.94 and there are 98 paid members. There was a discussion regarding how the part-time ranger is being paid thru December 31, 2023. The funds are being supplied by a MSAA member. There was a discussion regarding thanking this generous Association member. Mary Beth Boyle will draft a letter that will be signed by the Executive Committee and framed by Kendall Smith for presentation.

The Summer 2023 recap was given and despite there being quite a bit of rain, scouts and leaders had good comments about Camp and their experience.

Brendan Flaherty is no longer the MSAA staff advisor as he is no longer an employee of the Council. We await a decision on who the new advisor will be.

Kendall led a discussion regarding the Fall 2023 edition of Beaver Tales newsletter.

The 2024 donor option was discussed, and it was decided to focus on "customer forward" items such as: pavilions in campsites, sheds in campsites or updates to all three shower houses. It was pointed out that that the pavilions and sheds are capital items. It was decided to go with updates/improvements to the shower houses. Kendall will discuss with Ben.

Upcoming events at Massawepie: Fire Tower Challenge – Oct 6-9, Fall Beaver Weekend – Oct 6-9, Fall Skills Weekend – Oct 13-15 and Massawepie Arctic Challenge – Jan 12-15, 2024.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th.

BEAVER WEEKEND 2023



THANK YOU to ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

Life transitions fast at Massawepie and is in constant change. Things begin with the fast-paced spring work weekend season, which crashes into Camp School and then Summer Camp. When the last Scout leaves, Camp quickly shuts down and then Family Camp and college rentals take over. The fall brings two more work weekends and an event before the camp is tucked away for a long Adirondack winter. In all that chaos, it's easy to overlook the massive volunteer effort it took to operate Massawepie this summer. It's truly humbling to see the continued support of the MSAA and others keep this place the amazing facility it is for our Scouts. Thank you for a phenomenal year!

Ben Geiger, Massawepie Property Superintendent



~~ SAVE THE DATE! ~~

Beaver Weekend May 31 – June 2, 2024

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 20, the Alumni Association has 100 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:

- Michael Fritz from Vermont, who worked on camp staff during 2010-2015.
- Matt Hossenlopp from the Rochester area, who served on staff 2011-2018.
- Mike Kensek from the Rochester area, who joined as a "Friend of Alumni."
- Jim Miller from Ohio, who was on staff 1970-1976.

Other Alumni Association members who served on the 2023 Camp Pioneer staff were: Brendan Flaherty as Camp Director, Christelee Geiger as Family Camp Director, Rob Byers as Shooting Sports Director, Matt Denney as Steward, Jacob Emery and Cordell Reynolds as Assistant Rangers, Jon Northrup as Business Manager (filling in, for one week), and of course Ben Geiger as Property Superintendent. Scott Bischooping, Bill Boyle, Mary Beth Boyle, Peter Collinge, Ethan Crist, Don DeClerck, Kathy Elliott, Mike Fritz, Matt Hossenlopp, Joe Jackson, Chris Paul, Kendall Smith, Tim Smith, and Rosemary Varga helped at various times as volunteers during the summer. Sorry if we missed anyone!



MSAA Exec. Com. Members in Action!



2024 Donor Option: Renovations to Camp Pioneer Shower Houses By Jon

This year's MSAA Donor Option will fund much needed improvements to the Camp Pioneer shower houses at Massawepie.

The Alumni Association has decided to direct the 2023 Donor Option to the improvement of shower houses as we believe it is important to invest in customer-forward projects. Camp Pioneer has three shower houses, containing a total of 26 individual shower stalls, individual toilet rooms, adult restrooms, and wash basin stations. The two larger shower houses were constructed for the 2000 re-opening of Camp Pioneer, and have not received major renovations to the shower stalls or wash basins since.

The MSAA Executive Committee is currently investigating the cost of materials and labor, in addition to coordinating these projects over upcoming work weekends.

Please consider donating to these shower house improvements so that camp can continue to offer an outstanding customer experience to our Scouting Youth and Adults!



Pioneer Adult/Staff Shower House built in 1989

Article ideas or comments? Email Kendall at kas9653@gmail.com!



First Wood Badge in August 2023 (29 participants!)



National Camping School in June 2023

Program Highlights from Summer 2023! By Peter Huber, 2023 Program Director

Our amazing 2023 staff brought a stellar program to our scouts. Beyond our classic program offerings, each area brought something new to our scouts:

- ECON re-vamped the fishing program with a scheduled Fishing merit badge program and Rent-a-Pole program. New microscopes allowed for a new microscope exploration added to open programs.
- Handicraft added architecture and painting merit badges. These hands-on merit badges further enshrined handicraft's renowned program as the handi-est and the crafti-est place at the MSC.
- Scoutcraft's cooking merit badge saw a more solidified structure for scouts to experience patrol-style cooking of several meal and dessert types with our new and improved kitchen shelves, utensils, and cooking materials.
- Trailblazers kept up their wonderful programs to introduce new scouts to the wonders of Massawepie.
- Sports saw an amazing number of scouts participating in their open program activities such as the Gaga Tournament and the Home Run Derby.
- Archery debuted a new Expert Archery Challenge to see just how skilled our scout archers were!
- Rifle/Shotgun have been recognized as one of the most respected shooting sports programs around!
- Waterfront introduced a new Instructional Swim program for scouts that want to enhance their swimming skills.
- COPE/Climbing saw three new staff members; Betsy, Nicole, and Mial, bring a new spin to the COPE and climbing program, and our program will forever be better for it.
- Our CIT program was close to FULL the entire summer! Huge shout out to Dom Mruzek for his amazing work to introduce new staff members to our family!



Mountaineer Family Camp 2023 By Christielee

Mountaineer Family Camp 2023 summed up in one word:
SUCCESSFUL!

We started the season slowly, as people were still learning about our existence by either word of mouth or online advertising. By the end of our summer, we had a full house!



The reason I believe Mountaineer Family Camp was so successful has a lot to do with our customer service. As the Camp Director, I would call our reservations a week before their arrival, giving them information on the check in process, answer any questions they may have, and give them reassurances. Another big part of Family Camp's success was our Camp Caretakers Matt and Michelle Trost. They lived in a RV at Camp Mountaineer all summer and were a consistent friendly face and go-to person for our customers, whenever they were in need.

The last reason Mountaineer Family Camp was such a success was because of Massawepie itself! Massawepie is a treasure LOVED by the public all year long until the scouts come, and a metaphoric large fence is put on the property during the beauty of the summer months. Also, Mountaineer is NEVER open to the public and is basically a space with a private waterfront and miles of hiking trails for relaxation, even with the scouts enjoying the property across the lake. We have converted the old dining hall into a recreation center, so customers have plenty of space to unwind or get out of inclement weather. Once the public was made aware of such a wondrous place, they couldn't wait to reserve a space!

Matt Trost and I went down to Pioneer Base Camp on Tuesdays during their "Leaders Meetings" to discuss what "Family Camp" was all about. Leaders received this with excitement as some were former scouts of Mountaineer wanting to come back and camp in their old stomping grounds. Other leaders thought of family members at home who do not participate in resident camp but would LOVE to visit the Adirondacks and be close to their family. Also, a few got ideas about using the group sites for their Cub packs, giving them a taste of what is to come: camping at Massawepie as a Scout.

We noticed our most successful rentals were our buildings, as some dropped off or picked up Scouts on the weekend, then stayed the night before traveling back to their homes. Some stayed the week and enjoyed their own vacation. A lot of RVs came, but not so many tent sites were utilized. A lot of our customers were "non-campers" who wanted to be close to their families on the other side of the lake but didn't necessarily want to deal with nature. I would recommend building more "tabin" style cabins, like the ones in Pioneer along the road to the Health Lodge. Something small, simple, electrified, and within walking distance of our shower houses.



Sturgeon Moon – Aug 1st 2023



Last note: our shower houses! We had an amazing team of volunteers work vigorously on their own time, transitioning the old style "gang" showers into beautiful single-use shower stalls, bathrooms, and laundry facilities. The other shower house (which was already single use) was completely painted, giving it a much-needed facelift. This not only brought a wonderful aesthetic to our camp, but also offered a clean and comfortable place for our customers. Many Family Campers commented that they'd return solely because of the upkeep of our facilities and the kindness of our staff!

To reiterate, if I had to describe our Family Camp Program at Mountaineer in one word, it would be SUCCESSFUL. I am so excited to see the future it holds! *A huge thank you to ALL who helped make this year such a success, I look forward to working with you in the future!*

