

BEAVER TALES

SPRING 2024

Photos via Facebook & Others

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

BEAVER WEEKEND AT MASSAWEPIE

Beaver Weekend – the largest work weekend to add improvements, continue maintenance, and ready camp for a summer of scouts – is soon approaching, **Friday May 31 – Sunday June 2**. There are many projects to be completed; see page 3 for a full list.

The MSAA is proud of its large volunteer turnout for Beaver Weekend in previous years. It is a true testament to our Association’s commitment to Massawepie’s operations and improvements. This weekend is a wonderful opportunity to reminisce and recollect with others who consider Massawepie to be their happy place.

There is no skill-set too large or too small required to come and help camp out. Projects range from heavy machine operating, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical to painting, mowing, and setting up tents. All MSAA members, any volunteers, and friends of Massawepie are encouraged to attend!

MSAA ANNUAL MEETING

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association’s 2024 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie at 7:30PM, Saturday June 1, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle, unless weather requires the meeting be held in the Pioneer Dining Hall.

According to our Rules of Operation, elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee. Reports on 2023-24 activities will be given, along with plans for our future. Comments from members on how to continue developing MSAA’s membership and role at Camp will be solicited.

As is tradition, the meeting will conclude with a group photo of those in attendance. There will be time for continued socialization or a return to work on projects. Come be a part of the camaraderie and participate in our Association’s decision-making!

The Loon Call

I am reminded of a quote from the 5th Year BarkEater ceremony by John Muir:

“As age comes on, one source of enjoyment after another is closed, but Nature’s sources never fail.”

Perhaps this is why we are still so connected to Massawepie, our second home in Nature. Many of us consider Massawepie and its unspoiled natural beauty to be a respite from our day-to-day. Many of us enjoy the opportunity to connect with friends, old and new, against the backdrop of camp’s tranquility. And many of us find drive in supporting and improving our Adirondack hideaway.

I hope to see many of you in Massawepie’s natural setting for this year’s Beaver Weekend, May 31 to June 2 so that we can give back to the camp that has provided us with so much.

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



Totality at Massawepie! 4/8/2024
Photo by Jacob Emery



Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!

Scouting is a game with a purpose.

William Hillcourt

Executive Committee



Chair

Jon Northrup
northrup.jonathan@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Mary Beth Boyle

Treasurer

Peter Collinge

Secretary

Tim Smith
timsmith3656@gmail.com

M-a-L & BT Editor

Kendall Smith
kas9653@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

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

Staff Advisor

Matt Thurston
*Reservation Director,
Massawepie Scout Camps*
Matthew.Thurston@scouting.org

MSAA USPS Address

Seneca Waterways Council
Attn: MSAA
2320 Brighton-Henrietta TL Rd
Rochester, NY 14623

MSAA E-mail

MassawepieAlumni@yahoo.com

MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org

Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

2024-2025 Nominees for the MSAA Executive Committee

The Alumni Association Rules of Operation provide for publication of the names of nominated candidates for officers and at large Executive Committee members in advance of the Annual Meeting (held on Beaver Weekend). The Executive Committee has nominated:

Mary Beth Boyle, for Chair
TBD at Annual Mtg, for Vice-Chair
Jon Northrup, for Past-Chair
Tim Smith, for Secretary
Bill Boyle, for Treasurer
Peter Collinge, for Historian & M-a-L
Kendall Smith, for BT Ed. & M-a-L

for Member-at-Large:
Christielee Geiger
Mike Knittel
David Lippitt
Mark Pulvino

Go Green! Save MSAA (YOUR) \$\$\$
 60+ members now get Beaver Tales via e-mail. But we still spent \$106 on postage in 2023. Many groups no longer mail paper copies of newsletters. We don't want to abandon paper for those who want or need it, but it's faster & cheaper to send newsletters by e-mail. If you still receive a mailed paper copy but wouldn't mind getting yours in PDF format by e-mail, please let Treasurer Peter Collinge know by emailing him at collinge@localnet.com.

Membership Renewals By Peter

It's that time of year for Alumni Association membership renewals. Please check the enclosed Membership Renewal Form to see whether it says "Expiring June 2024" (or earlier). If so, please renew NOW – before you start binge-watching your favorite show and forget! (Bonus: you'll avoid repeated reminders to renew.) Just send \$15 (or \$25 for 2 years) to the return address shown on the form (or see below). Even better, make a donation of \$60 or more total to the Massawepie Square Foot Fund and/or the Shower House Upgrade project (see separate article) and get a "free" 1-year membership renewal. Either way will keep your membership up-to-date, help Massawepie, and keep receiving this fine newsletter during 2024 and beyond!

Reminder: Please make checks out to Seneca Waterways Council, BSA (NOT Massawepie Staff Alumni Association). That also makes any donations (beyond dues) potentially tax-deductible, if you itemize. Send all alumni renewals and donations to the Seneca Waterways Council office at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, NY 14623.

All members, whether renewing or not this year, are encouraged to return the form if you wish to make a donation or need to make any updates of your address, phone number, e-mail or other information. And please ask a friend to join!

2023 MSAA Financial Report By Peter

In 2023, the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's income was again somewhat more than our expenses, largely due to fairly minimal expenses this year. We currently have a healthy balance in our account, which will be used to benefit camp via future projects or endowment. Some of the surplus has already been used in 2024 to buy staff recognition shirts (see below). Beyond normal association dues, which support projects like the recognitions mentioned below, Alumni Association members donated an additional \$1640 for endowment and \$3640 toward sailboats and accessories (such as rudders, sails, and masts). Thanks to a generous alumni member, we also raised an additional \$100,000 for other projects around camp.

We again recognized more senior camp staffers by presenting 11 ringer shirts and 3 fleece blankets to those who in 2023 had completed three or five summers, respectively, on staff. We ended 2023 with a good inventory of blankets but reordered more shirts (about \$400 worth) in early 2024 using some of the surplus funds in our account. And this year we again helped to pay staff uniform insignia costs for the CITs, to help support those future staffers.

Here's a summary of our 2023 financial year overall:

Account balance 12/31/22	\$ 4,236
Dues & income	+\$ 940
Postage expenses	-\$ 106
Sq.Ft. member donations	+\$ 1,640
To Council Sq. Ft. Fund	-\$ 1,640 (as an endowment for Massawepie)
Staff tabin hardening donations	+\$ 3,640
Other camp project donations	+\$ 100,000
To council from camp	-\$ 103,640 (donations from the two lines above)
Memorabilia sales & don.	+\$ 15
Staff recognition expenses	-\$ 171 (CIT insignia)
	=====
Account balance 12/31/23	\$ 4,913 (after rounding)

As usual, many thanks to all who paid dues or donated to help support Massawepie!



Gannett main room upgrades

Spring 2024 Work Weekends & Project List By Rosemary & Ben

Massawepie could not be made ready for our Scouts, their Leaders, and our Summer Camp Staff without the help of many VOLUNTEERS - like **you**. Most of the work needed to keep Massawepie a premier camping experience is done by volunteers. Please consider joining us for one or more weekends! (Bonus: free accommodations and meals in appreciation of your help!) If transportation is holding you back, let us know – we will try to arrange a ride with another volunteer. Tools, equipment, and materials are supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own tools.



Renovations at the Turner Trek Center

Communicate with the Work Weekend Chair

Rosemary Varga is the Work Weekend Chair. If you would like to be a project leader, work on a particular project, or reserve a particular cabin, PLEASE CONTACT ROSEMARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

If you have questions, or just need to let Rosemary know you will be attending one or more weekends (and when you will arrive), please contact her at least a couple of weeks ahead of time. Contact Rosemary via email:

herselfreigns@gmail.com or phone: (585) 233-7841

Pre-Skills Weekend, May 10-12 and Skills Weekend, May 17-19

During Skills Weekends we start to get Massawepie ready for Beaver Weekend and summer use. We turn on water and electrical systems, check hiking trails and do advance planning and preparation for Beaver Weekend projects and more. All volunteers are needed and welcome to join us, regardless of your skill level. Check in at the Shop when you arrive to get sleeping and crew assignments, plus meal location and times.

Beaver Weekend, May 31 – June 2

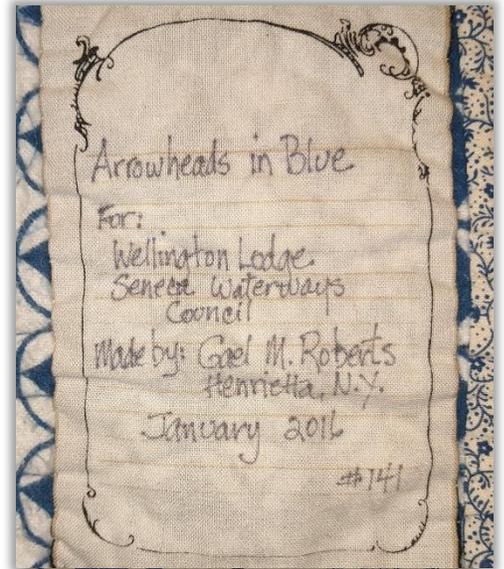
Beaver Weekend is when we do the major work in preparing Camp for the arrival of Scouts. Campsites and the waterfront are set up, trails are cleared, special projects are completed, and a long list of maintenance items are addressed (see Proposed Projects below). A large group of volunteers is needed to complete all the work, so please consider joining us. Now, for some logistics and planning:

Beds: The Camp provides sleeping accommodations by way of a tent with cot and mattress or a pre-reserved cabin (if available), or you can bring your own tent or sleep in your car.

Meals: Meals are provided during Beaver Weekend from Friday May 31 through Sunday June 2. If you arrive earlier or stay later, please plan your own meal arrangements accordingly.

We are very flexible in accommodating any time you have available to help. Early arrivals are welcome; some will start arriving as early as Tues May 28. If you arrive Tuesday through Thursday, check in at the Shop. If you arrive Friday or Saturday, check in at Pioneer Dining Hall.

If you are unable to attend Skills or Beaver Weekend(s) but would still like to lend a hand in preparing Camp for the summer, please contact Rosemary Varga, Work Weekend Chair, to schedule and reserve a time to come and volunteer.



Proposed Projects

Set up campsites and program areas for summer use	Place platforms in campsites and attach tent frames
Examine bikes for needed repair and repair what can be done	Get Mountaineer Family camp ready for the summer
Build new campsite pavilions in Camp Pioneer	Always-needed trail work
Electrical upgrades to Camp	Turn on water for summer use
Waterfront preparation	Replace ceilings in Gannett bunk rooms
Preventative and needed maintenance on Camp vehicles	Build one of two latrines

2023-2024 MSAA Exec Committee Meeting Minutes By Tim

November 14, 2023

Attending were Jon, Bill, Peter, Mike, David, and Kendall. Mary Beth, Don, Brendan, Christielee, Mark, and Tim were unable to attend. The minutes for this meeting were recorded by Bill Boyle. The minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting were approved.

Peter reported that the current MSAA account balance is \$4,900 (which may be slightly higher than we want to carry). He also reported that we are above 100 paid members. Peter will be ordering the 3rd year staff shirts soon and expects that the total will be \$400. The expense of the 2023 CIT staff patch sets has been charged to the MSAA account by the Council. The 2024 Donor Option will support upgrades to the Camp Pioneer shower houses.

Matt Arlauckas hosted the MSAA website for many years. He closed his business and the MSAA needs a new host. The MSAA will now be added to the Council website. We will need to pay \$25 for each domain we have (.org, .net, and .com). Peter suggested that we drop the .net domain. The website will need to be secure. The estimated annual cost will be \$100.

April 25, 2024

Attending were Jon, Bill, Peter, David, Kendall, Tim, and Matt. Mary Beth, Don, Christielee, Mike, and Mark were unable to attend. The minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting were approved. Peter reported that the 4/23/24 balance is \$4,589, (which maybe slightly higher than we want to carry). We are above 104 paid members. Peter has ordered 3rd year staff shirts.

There was a discussion on the 2024 Donor Option upgrades to the three Camp Pioneer shower houses. The MSAA needs to find a volunteer project manager to help us move forward. It was agreed that the MSAA will donate \$1,000 when a plan is developed.

The committee is developing ideas on a 10th year staff recognition gift. As of now, only several individuals qualify. Ideas include custom logoed apparel or gifts. The 2024-2025 nominees for the Executive Committee were discussed. Jon is stepping down as Chair and Peter is stepping down as Treasurer.

David shared that the Council is close to hiring a consultant who will prepare a feasibility study and Capital Campaign to build new Dining Hall and Administration Offices at Massawepie. He also shared that Camp Sabattis will not be offering a 2024 summer program.

Fire Tower & Massawepie Arctic Challenges! By Mary Beth

Most know Massawepie as our beloved summer camp and without a doubt the summer experience is something you don't want to miss! However, there is so much to be said for Massawepie throughout all the seasons and so if you haven't had the chance to participate in (or volunteer for!) the annual Outdoor or Arctic Challenge weekends, it is highly recommended.

The October 2023 Outdoor Challenge was named the Fire Tower Challenge. Troops camped at Massawepie while spending time climbing Adirondack fire towers. It was a very wet and rainy weekend but that did not stop scouts as they ascended several different fire towers. At camp, troops kept busy as they enjoyed the property and activities. A viewing of the Buffalo Bills game was even offered though given the outcome it's hardy something to mention here... Something to mention though is that for the second year in a row, this weekend also served as a work weekend or a 'Fall Beaver Weekend.' While scouts had fun, several volunteers worked on different projects and helped prepare camp for winter.

In January 2024, troops again gathered at Massawepie for the Arctic Challenge. Scouts braved the cold as they participated in round robin activities including the two-man saw, branding, making a 'no bake' granola bar, a creative scavenger hunt, a 'how to' on cold weather camping, and riding fat tire bikes. Troops also went to visit the Wild Center and enjoyed our beautiful camp property. A beloved Arctic Challenge tradition is the Adirondack storytelling of local resident Butch Hassler. We welcomed Butch on Saturday evening, and he did a terrific job of entertaining the group. Over the weekend, indoor breaks in Gannett were a must and scouts enjoyed filling downtime with cards and board games.



Member Notes By Peter

New MSAA members since the Fall 2023 newsletter:

- **Tom Knoebel**, who served on Camp Forester staff in 1979 and 1980.
- **Greg Hangac**, a retired project engineer who lives in Childwold and has for 24 years helped camp rangers since Jay Bailey as a property volunteer.

MSAA member **David Lippitt**, who had been serving as Chair of the BSA's National Service Territory 10 (New York State), has had his volunteer duties expanded. David is now the Chair of the newly consolidated Council Service Territory 10, which includes New York State and most of New England (except Rhode Island and Connecticut). CSTs have replaced NSTs in the BSA organizational jargon.

MSAA member and 2023 Massawepie Camp Director **Brendan Flaherty** has taken a position as a District Executive for Longhouse Council, BSA.



Camp had guests from PA to FL for the Total Eclipse in April 2024!

2024 Donor Option – Improvements to Camp Shower House Facilities By Kendall

This year's MSAA Donor Option will fund improvements to the three shower house facilities at Camp Pioneer. The Lower, Adult/Staff, and Upper Shower Houses are key in providing Scouts, Leaders, and Staff with access to bathing and hygiene needs. Any improvements in these facilities will be appreciated by all, but most importantly, by the Junior Staff who live in the Staff Site or Don Town (formerly Tabin Row).

Initial donations will go towards comfort and function upgrades to the common sink areas, toilet rooms, and shower stall plumbing fixtures. Even the smallest upgrades will make a big difference for those who use the shower houses all summer.

The MSAA Executive Committee is seeking a volunteer who can lead and organize this project! We need a person who can dedicate some (not a lot!) of time to create a plan and organize efforts to improve the shower houses. *You do not have to be able to do all (or any) of the physical work.* We just need a part-time project manager.

Contact Kendall Smith at kas9653@gmail.com if you are interested in discussing this volunteer role for the MSAA.



MP-13 Lower Shower House

Cumulative Alumni Donations Pass \$324,000! By Peter

During the twenty-four years from 2000-2023, Massawepie Staff Alumni Association members have donated a total of \$255,051 toward various significant projects at Massawepie, and a total of \$68,980 for the Square Foot Endowment to fund future maintenance and equipment for Massawepie. That's an amazing total of \$324,031 that has been given by Alumni Association members to keep Massawepie available for the Scouts of the future. Congratulations and thank you!

Camp Pioneer 2024 Update By Matt

It's hard to believe that another summer camp season is almost here. This summer, Massawepie Scout Camps expects to serve close to 1500 youth, and six hundred adult leaders between our summer camp and Trek programs. Our team is very excited to be implementing some program changes this season, including new developments in the merit badge program at Sports, new adult training opportunities, new excursions offered through the Mountain Fox Program, and adding BSA's "Cowboy Action" shooting program to our open program.

The 2024 staff is coming together and includes a lot of new and returning faces. We're happy to see a majority of our 2023 CITs working in our program areas this summer. There are still staff vacancies at the Health Lodge, the Trading Post, the Dish Room, and Waterfront.

As always, our team always welcomes alumni and friends to help during a weekend or camp session. Anyone interested in working or volunteering on staff is encouraged to contact the Camp Director, Matt Thurston, at matthew.thurston@scouting.org. We can't wait to see you!

MSAA 2024 Calendar

For MSAA event status updates, go to www.MassStaffAlumni.org

May 10-12 / 17-19	Pre-Skills / Skills Weekends – All levels of "skill" are needed!
May 27-30	Pre-Beaver Days – Come early to help prepare for the weekend projects!
May 31 – June 2	Beaver Weekend – ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
June 1	MSAA Annual Meeting ~ 7:30pm, Massawepie
June 23 – Aug 10	Staff Week & Camping Weeks – Massawepie
Oct 4 – 7	MSC October Odyssey – Scouting event at Massawepie!
Oct 4 – 7	Fall Beaver Weekend – Work on projects or help with the Scout event!
Oct 11 – 13	Fall Skills Weekend – Skilled or not, come prepare camp for winter rest!

Alumni Association Online By Peter

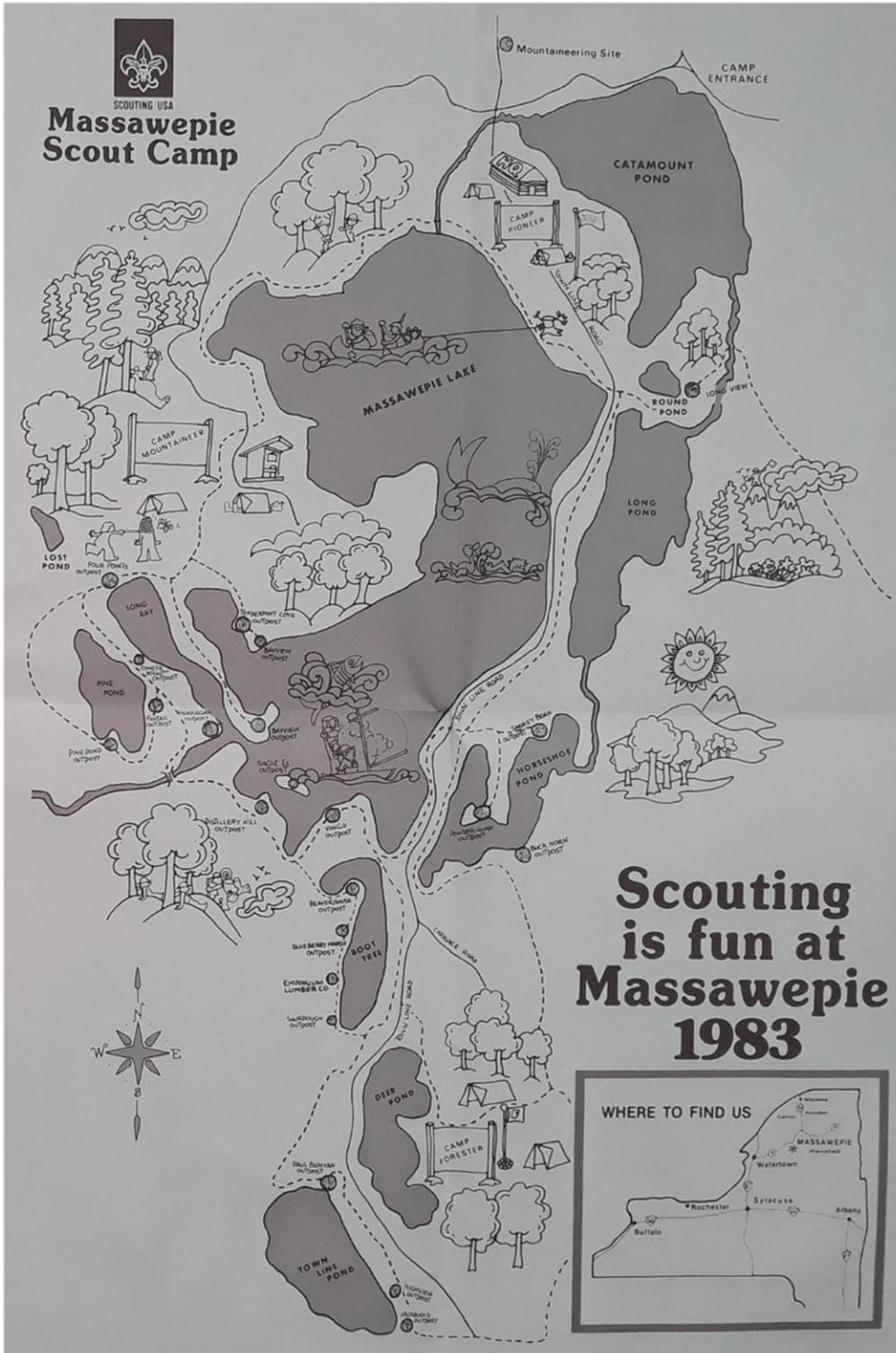
Remember to check out your Alumni Association online:

- On Facebook, search for the group “Massawepie Staff Alumni Association,” and join if you’re not already a member.
- Visit the MSAA website at <http://masstaffalumni.org> to see current info, past staff photos, memorabilia and Camp history.
- If you have a staff photo or memory or historical item that isn’t on the website, please contact webmaster@masstaffalumni.org to share!



Geiger family views the Total Eclipse on April 8, 2024

See below for a neat map included in a 1983 camp promotional flier, “31 Years of Adventure.” This flier is in the Historical Documents section on the MSAA website.



Snow overhang on the Turner Trek Center metal roof



A fun friend made in April!



Sunset over Massawepie Lake during the 2024 ice-out