

# FALL 2007 Beaver Tales

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Founded in 2000 to provide Spirit, Service and Support!



## Money-saving Deadline Nears for MASSAWEPIE 55th ANNIVERSARY STAFF REUNION CELEBRATION!

by Shannon

This exciting event is quickly approaching. To date, about thirty people have paid reservations for what promises to be a fun evening. Whether you want to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, or just enjoy a night of camp memories and good cheer -- make your reservation today! You do not need to be a member of MSAA to attend. Everyone is invited!

The date is Friday, December 28th, 6:30-10:00 pm at the Rochester Club Ballroom, located at 120 East Avenue in Rochester. Each attendee will receive a commemorative patch! There will be a lot of fabulous food including: crab cakes, beef empanadas, baby burgers, shrimp cocktail, and Cajun vegetable fritters. Desserts include: cheesecake, lemon curd tarts, and peanut butter and chocolate trifle. There will also be a cash bar. Bring your photos and memorabilia to share! Samples in this issue are from our web site.

Cost of the event is \$30 before November 16th and \$35 afterwards. Reserve your spot today and spread the word. Use the form on Page 3 or go to [massstaffalumni.org](http://massstaffalumni.org) and download a form or card to mail in with your check.



2007 Annual Meeting and Elections

by Peter

The 2007 MSAA Annual Meeting was held in a newly constructed "dining hall overflow seating carport" at Camp Pioneer on June 2 during Beaver Weekend. Beaver Weekend crews had assembled three prefab carport-type structures to house extra seating outside the Pioneer dining hall to accommodate the burgeoning demand for summer dining hall feeding.

Mike Knittel started the meeting by giving the Treasurer's Report. Since the last annual meeting, income totaled \$1195 (including \$990 of dues); expenses totaled \$1112 (including a \$600 donation toward kayaks). Our account balance is \$1966. T-shirts are on sale for a discounted price of \$6!

Shannon Davis announced the 55th anniversary celebration on December 28 at the Rochester Club Ballroom. She stated that help is needed to publicize this event and to locate former staff members.

Brad VanAuken announced the success of the kayak program. The 12 kayaks purchased in 2006 were very popular, so several more are being purchased for 2007. Next year's fundraising efforts may be directed at improving the Staff Lounge or one of the camp programs (possibly buying new mountain bikes or supporting a new program).

Officers and Executive Committee members were unanimously elected (following a motion by Larry Logory/Rosemary Varga) for 2007-08 as listed to the right. Dave Lippitt commented that there will be a need for new people on the Executive Committee, at least by next year. Also, George Varga was thanked for all of his efforts on the newsletter.

After the meeting, many of the MSAA members participated in BarkEater ceremonies: both the first and second year ceremonies for newer participants and the premiere of the new third year ceremony for those who became second year BarkEaters last year.

### Executive Committee

#### **Chair**

Brad VanAuken  
(585) 624-2403  
[bvanauken@rochester.rr.com](mailto:bvanauken@rochester.rr.com)

#### **Vice-Chair**

Shannon Davis

#### **Treasurer**

Mike Knittel

#### **Secretary & Webmaster**

Peter Collinge  
(585) 334-4132  
[capejo@localnet.com](mailto:capejo@localnet.com)

#### **Past Chair**

Mark Pulvino

#### **Member at Large & Council VP of Camping**

David Lippitt

#### **Member at Large & Newsletter Editor**

George Varga  
(585) 461-9424  
[givarga@rochester.rr.com](mailto:givarga@rochester.rr.com)  
196 Linden Street  
Rochester, NY 14620-2335

#### **Members at Large**

Gary Hicks  
Stephanie VonBacho  
John Zaffino

#### **Staff Advisor**

Don DeClerck  
(585) 374-5770  
[don.declerck@otetiana.org](mailto:don.declerck@otetiana.org)

#### **MSAA USPS Address**

MSAA, Camp Cutler  
7131 Gulick Road  
Naples, NY 14512

#### **MSAA E-mail**

[MassawepieAlumni@yahoo.com](mailto:MassawepieAlumni@yahoo.com)

#### **MSAA Web Site**

[MassStaffAlumni.org](http://MassStaffAlumni.org)

**Summer Camp Wrap-Up** *by David*

2127 youth and 679 leaders had a great time at Massawepie last summer. Both numbers increased from last year. Even with the higher attendance, the staff and program were better than ever. The kayaks donated by the Alumni Association were again well used and continue to be a super program opportunity. The BarkEater program finished its third year with great participation.

Congratulations are due to Steve Weisenreder and the entire Massawepie staff. Their great efforts were shown by the perfect score the camp received from the visitation team that evaluated the camp's program and facilities this summer. The visitation team's report states: "It is always a joy to visit an excellent camping facility that is enthusiastically managed by an experienced Camp Director and has a high quality staff." We couldn't have said it better!

**BarkEater 2007** *by Brad*

BarkEater completed its third successful summer at Massawepie in 2007. The third year theme was 'Forester' and included a Massawepie lumberjack challenge. 1,593 people participated in the BarkEater program this past summer. Of that total, 684 earned their first year recognition, 419 their second year recognition and 490 their third year recognition. In its first three years of operation, more than 3,000 people have become Massawepie BarkEaters. The BarkEater program development committee will soon begin development of the fourth year program. Its theme is 'Voyageur.' You can learn more about BarkEater at [www.massawepie.org](http://www.massawepie.org). If you are interested in helping with the program, either in its development or in its execution at camp, please contact me at 585-624-2043 or [vanauken@brandforward.com](mailto:vanauken@brandforward.com).

**Kayaks** *by Brad*

As you know, through your generous contributions, the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association donated 12 kayaks to the camp in 2006. Based upon the program's popularity, we donated another 4 kayaks in 2007, including one two-person kayak bringing the total to 16 kayaks.

Boys, leaders and staff members have all said that the program has become a hit with the boys. In a survey of troops spending time at Massawepie this summer, a significant number of units indicated that the open kayak program was their favorite program at camp.

Thank you again for your support of this highly successful program. It reflects positively on you and on the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association. Thanks in particular to the following individuals who contributed to the program in 2007: Waldemar Bachmann, Donald Bennett, Bernie Bergman, Richard Betz, Shannon Davis, Dick Depalma, James Forsyth, Dave Hoselton, Amy Lippitt, Mark Maurice, Paul Pape, Douglas Perryman, John Poray, Anthony Pulvino and George Varga.

Together with our significant support of the Meyering Rifle Range, we have made a big difference in the quality of the Massawepie camping experience. I hope you will continue to support other camp programs on which the Massawepie Alumni Association decides to focus. We look forward to sharing our next camp program initiative in an upcoming Beaver Tales issue.



## Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Update

by Peter

Will Massawepie be available for future generations of Scouts? Like it or not, the answer to that question depends largely on the camp finances. Right now the Massawepie camp fees are adequate to pay for the operating costs, but not enough to maintain camp equipment and buildings adequately. That's where the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment, established in 2001, comes in. The money donated to this fund is placed into a permanent endowment whose earnings can only be used to support Massawepie equipment and maintenance. The Alumni Association has, and a number of our members also have, donated money to support this fund. Here's a report on the fund the past two years:

	2005	2006
Balance at start of year	\$11,288	\$26,644
Donations added	\$14,990	\$2,680
Investment gain (loss)	\$668	\$2,158
Transferred out for camp use	-\$302	-\$373
Balance at end of year	<b>\$26,644</b>	<b>\$31,109</b>

Yes, the proceeds from this fund are still small, but are growing. Over \$600 more is expected to become available for camp use in 2007. Some of the proceeds of the fund have been designated for energy efficiency improvements at Massawepie following a recent energy audit. Thanks to all who have donated to this fund. Further donations are very welcome, and should be made payable to Otetiana Council, and clearly designate that they are "for Massawepie Square Foot Endowment to fund equipment and maintenance at the Massawepie Scout Camps in perpetuity." This fund will help maintain Massawepie FOREVER!



# REGISTRATION FORM

## Massawepie 55th Anniversary Staff Reunion Celebration

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Year(s) on Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Camp(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Friend/Family Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Alumni Association Member

Send registration form and check to:

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 (by 11/16) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Don DeClerck, MSA 55th

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 (after 11/16) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Cutler

7131 Gulick Road

Make checks payable to: Otetiana Council Inc.

Naples, NY 14512

## Welcome!

Welcome to our new members who have joined since the last listing:

Craig Gravitz  
Christian Hansen  
(Forester, '86 & '88)  
John Zaffino

## Member News

MSAA member Jeremy Whitmore (Mountaineer staff 1988-90) is now Assistant Scout Executive of the Georgia-Carolina Council.

## Membership Renewal

Is your membership current? Annual memberships expire on May 31. If yours has expired you should find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. Send \$10 (or \$20 for 2 years) to the address shown on the form. Or, you can receive a complimentary one-year membership (or extension) by returning the form with \$50 or more of donations to: the "Square Foot" Endowment (which will support Massawepie equipment and maintenance in perpetuity); or to our next "support Massawepie program and/or

## Upcoming Events

### November 2007

16 ..... Deadline to save \$5 on the 55th Anniversary event

### December 2007

?..... MSAA Executive Committee Meeting  
28 ..... Massawepie 55th Anniversary Celebration  
(details on Page 1)

### May 2008

16-18 .. Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie  
All Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!  
30-6/1.. Beaver Weekend at Massawepie  
ALL Alumni encouraged to attend!  
31 ..... MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend  
dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle

staff fund drive," which will be announced soon. This will replace our very successful drive to start a kayak program at camp.

Each year our membership ranks decline in May, pending renewals and new members. As of the end of September, we are up to 85 members. This is a good start toward our goal of having 100+ members this year.

If you know a Massawepie staff alumni or friend of Massawepie who's not a member, please encourage them to join or renew. Membership forms are available in the "About Us" section of [MassStaffAlumni.org](http://MassStaffAlumni.org) – download all you need. And please encourage them to attend the 55th Anniversary Celebration, which is open to everyone, member or not!

**Massawepie Staff Alumni Association**  
J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation  
7131 Gulick Road  
Naples, NY 14512

## INSIDE Beaver Tales:

- Massawepie 55th Anniversary Reunion Update!
- Massawepie Memorabilia Photos!
- MSAA News!
- Summer Camp Review!
- And more!

**TO:**

Visit us at [massstaffalumni.org](http://massstaffalumni.org)