

ROOTS

WINTER 2006

Newsletter of the MASSAWEPIE STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Founded in 2000 to provide Spirit, Service and SUPPORT!

Annual MSAA Winter Rendezvous – “Chillin’ at the Lodge” is Sunday February 12!

by Mark Pulvino

This annual event takes on a new look for 2006. We couldn't chance having another commercial enterprise shut its doors after we were there – bad for our reputation. So join us at CAVALRY HOUSE LODGE, Mendon Ponds Park, from 10am to 3pm on the 12th.

With the new look comes a new format. **BRING** a hot dish (and appropriate serving utensil) to share. Include recipe cards if you choose (and want to brag), be it for a crock-pot special, stew, soup, lasagna, chili, dip or whatever. Let's keep the cold outside! **BRING** a beverage to share: a couple of bottles of your favorite vino, mulled cider, a hot toddy, flavored coffee or hot cocoa. Plates, bowls, cups, utensils and napkins will be provided. **BRING** copies of your favorite camp photos (labeled with your name, approximate date of photo, camp, etc.) so we can start a Staff Alumni Album. **BRING** a sled or a toboggan (or even a kayak) to race. Hey – it's winter, so we might as well play in the snow! **COST** is only \$5 per adult, to offset the lodge fee. Pay Mike at the door. He will also accept dues if you need to renew.

Please e-mail Mark Pulvino - mpulvino@rochester.rr.com - with number attending BY FEBRUARY 8 so we can gauge supplies needs. If you need to locate the lodge, a park map in pdf format is available on the county web site. Type www.monroecounty.gov/documentView.asp?docID=33 into your browser.

Name A Kayak!

by Peter Collinge

As announced in 2005, the Massawepie Program Committee chose kayaks as the new program feature at Massawepie for 2006. It's important to have new programs to keep older Scouts returning to camp, and kayaks are fun and relatively inexpensive. Ideally, this program would consist of about 12 recreational kayaks available for use during open boating periods. However, Otetiana Council budget constraints make it difficult even to maintain current program equipment, much less add new equipment. The reality is that if we want to see kayaks at camp this summer, we will need to make that happen ourselves.

After pricing kayaks and available discounts, the Alumni Association Executive Committee has decided that \$300 should provide both a reasonable-quality recreational kayak and a paddle. Since alumni donated \$605 last year to the kayak program, we already have two kayaks paid for. Thanks to those who donated! This spring, there will be another opportunity to donate along with the MSAA dues renewals. Any donation is welcome, but if a member or friend or group or Scouting unit donates \$300, they will receive “naming rights” to one kayak (name subject to approval by the MSAA Executive Committee).

The Alumni Association Executive Committee has also discussed the need to provide funds to replace kayaks and paddles in future years. For each kayak purchased for 2006, the MSAA will donate \$50 from existing association funds to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment, and two MSAA Executive Committee members have offered to match that with another \$50 per kayak. Thus, for each kayak purchased we'll be adding \$100 to the Square Foot Endowment, which provides a permanent source of funding for future Massawepie equipment and maintenance needs. (See a related article on Page 5.)

If you'd like to donate toward the kayak program before the dues renewal forms are mailed this spring, send a check payable to Otetiana Council BSA, Inc., with a note “for Massawepie kayaks,” to Don DeClerck at Camp Cutler (address on this page). If you're donating \$300, include the name you'd like to have on “your” kayak. Advance donations would be very helpful, since the dues renewals are typically received in June, which will be tight timing for purchasing kayaks before the summer season. While 12 kayaks would be ideal, the program will start with as many kayaks as we can fund in time for summer 2006. So go ahead, donate \$300 and name a kayak for yourself, for a friend or for a troop! (But smaller donations will also be gratefully accepted.)



Executive Committee

Chair

Brad VanAuken
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Vice Chair

currently vacant

Secretary & Webmaster

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Treasurer

Mike Knittel

Member at Large

Shannon Davis

Member at Large

Gary Hicks

Member at Large &

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David Lippitt

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MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org

Send newsletter submissions to:

MSAA Newsletter
196 Linden Street
Rochester, NY 14620-2335

Skills & Beaver Weekends and MSAA Annual Meeting & Elections

by *Mark Pulvino*

2006 is finally here and there are two great opportunities for you to make a difference for many Scouts this year. The Staff Alumni Association has made a positive impact throughout Camp Pioneer in the past. We have seen a consistent group of alumni up every year that bring along friends, too. This year will be no exception. Plan on joining numerous MSAA members helping out at Massawepie. We want more than last year and we can never have too many.

Spring Skills Weekend is May 19 – 21. Beaver Weekend is June 2 – 4. If you can come up a day or two early, let us know – there are always tasks that need to be done to prepare for the full crews. We have former staffers coming from Hawaii, Texas, Boston, Chicago, and all over - just for Beaver Weekend. A MSAA crew spends that weekend in the kitchen, so we all have great meals, including a super banquet on Saturday night. Don't miss out - you'll definitely have earned it.

The MSAA Annual Meeting and Elections will immediately follow the banquet. There's nothing quite like meeting in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle and then watching the sunset. You can also pay your dues and buy MSAA shirts.

Make sure you schedule your time off for these great opportunities for fellowship, camaraderie and fun. Make plans with other former staff members and make a reunion weekend of it. Bring friends and family too – we have a job for everyone. We'd love to see some fresh/old faces and hear some great stories. Just let us know and we'll save a place for you!

E-mail Mark Pulvino, mpulvino@rochester.rr.com or call him at (585) 872-1507.

MSAA Executive Committee November Meeting Minutes

by *David Lippitt (for Peter Collinge)*

The Executive Committee met November 8, 2005 at the home of David Lippitt. Present were: Brad VanAuken, Mike Knittel, Mark Pulvino, George Varga, Gary Hicks, David Lippitt, and Don DeClerck.

There was then discussion about what to do with the money in the Alumni Association account. Our Rules of Operation state the Treasurer should indicate an amount which should be reserved for operating expenses and contingencies, with the remainder being donated to the Endowment (approximately 50%) and Massawepie-related capital improvements, maintenance projects and/or program enhancements (approximately 50%). Mike Knittel reported we had a little over \$1500 in our account. It was generally agreed that we need to retain about \$600-\$800 in our account for operating expenses and contingencies, with the remainder eligible for these donations. [\$605 of the balance in our account is "restricted funds," having been donated in 2005 for the new kayak program.]

This led to a discussion of our winter event. As to the event, it was decided the ideal location would be a lodge at Mendon Ponds Park that was near a sledding hill. Brad agreed to check on locations, availability and cost. Numerous ideas as to the theme of the event were discussed. The consensus was that we do something such as a cook-off, with people bringing hot items to share. There was also discussion about the possibility of wine tasting, with participants bringing two bottles of wine to share

with others. It was also suggested that we could invite people to bring copies of their favorite Massawepie pictures to start an Alumni Association picture album. Finally, there was discussion about bringing a kayak to the event as a method of promoting our kayak fundraiser. Mark agreed to put together a concept piece for the event.

Discussion then shifted to the kayak program, and in particular, how much the Alumni Association should contribute towards it. Don agreed to go to Gander Mountain and get a quote as to what a kayak, with necessary equipment, will cost. Based on that, we would be in a better position to determine how much the Alumni Association should contribute towards kayaks. Discussion then turned to how we could promote contributions for kayaks. Several good ideas came up. One idea was that individual Executive Committee members could match member donations up to a certain amount, or the Alumni Association could match member donations up to a certain point. The suggestion was also made that if someone agreed to fully fund a kayak the donor could be given naming rights for the kayak (subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee). This led to discussion as to whether, through the Association and individual members efforts, we could purchase 12 kayaks for next summer (the desired number to start a program). It also led to discussion as to whether the kayak program base should be named for, or include recognition of, the Massawepie Staff

MSAA Shirts

by *Mike Knittel*

The maroon and tan combination crinkle pattern MSAA logo tee shirts are still available in both short and long sleeves. The long sleeve shirts were introduced at Beaver Weekend 2005 and the short sleeve shirts debuted at the Staff Appreciation Picnic last summer.

I will be bringing them to the Winter Rendezvous, so be sure to bring your checkbook. The price for short sleeve shirts is \$10 for sizes M to XL, and \$11 for XXL. Long sleeve shirt are \$13 for M to XL and \$14 for XXL. We still have a good supply of shirts on hand, but don't wait to purchase since they are selling. Purchase of the shirts continues to raise funds to support MSAA and Massawepie.

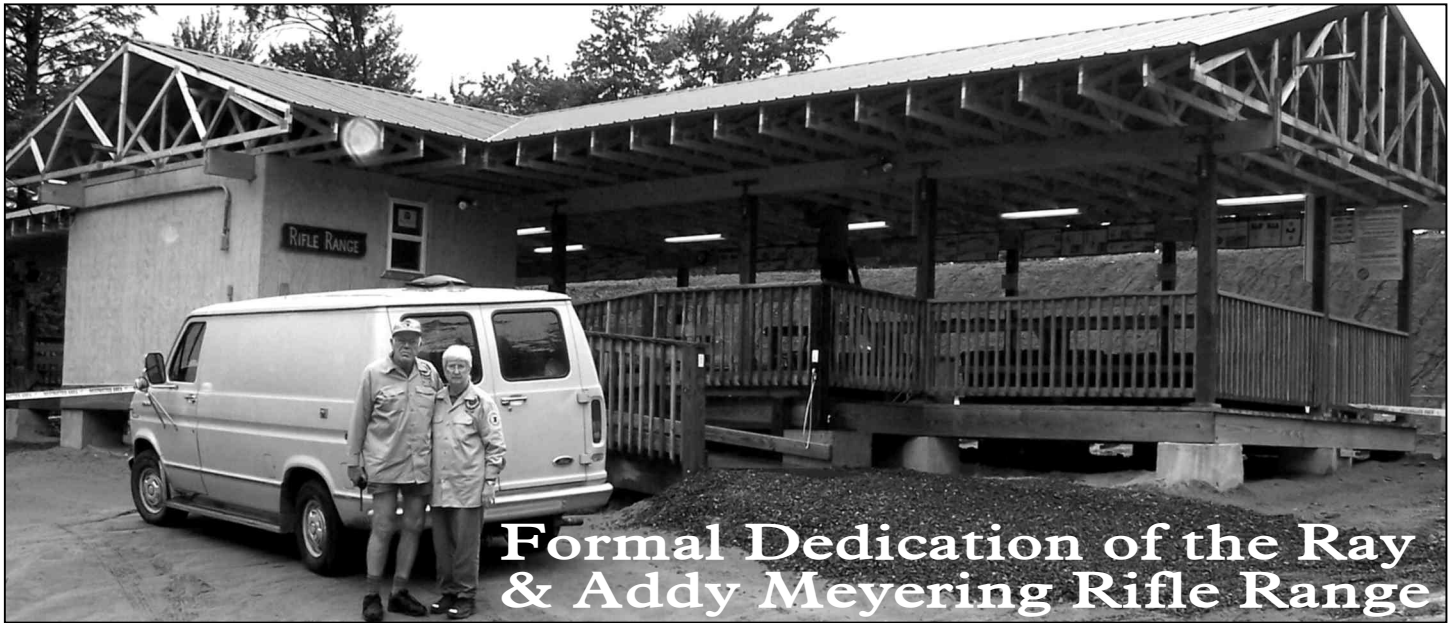
The shirts can also be ordered by sending the order form on Page 5, with your check, to: MSAA, c/o Don DeClerck, J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation, 7131 Gulick Road, Naples, NY 14512. Remember that the shirts are only available to current paid members, so also include your \$10 annual dues with the check if you have not renewed for 2005-2006.

Alumni Association. The conclusion was that once Don got more information about the kayaks and their costs we would reconvene (either through a meeting or by e-mail) to discuss how we would proceed. This may involve a decision that we do not contribute as much (percentage-wise) to the endowment this year, as recommended in the Rules of Operation.

Alumni T-shirt sales were also discussed. We have a large number of both long-sleeve and short-sleeve shirts still available, which have been fully paid for by the Association. As a result, any sales we make would be direct additions to our account. Discussion was had about making them available by mail (with a \$4 mailing charge added) through an announcement with a clip off coupon in the next newsletter. There was also discussion that an electronic version of the coupon could be on the website, with accompanying information.

George suggested that we might be able to sell the t-shirts to Alumni members at the Pioneer Trading Post next summer. We liked this idea and it was further suggested that we make Alumni Association and Friends of the Alumni Association applications available at the trading post, with a flyer describing the Association.

We also discussed a replacement for Jeremy Cooney, who resigned as Vice Chair due to his new employment. It was agreed that Mike Knittel would contact Shannon Davis to see if she was interested in taking that position.



Formal Dedication of the Ray & Addy Meyering Rifle Range

by Peter Collinge

Member Notes

Brad VanAuken and **Peter Collinge**, MSAA Chair and Secretary respectively, have been elected to the Otetiana Council Executive Board. The entire council will benefit from their broad Scouting and camping experience and knowledge, as well as the unique skills each of them has. We congratulate Brad and Peter!

Jeremy Cooney has taken a new position as Manager for Campaign Leadership at Hobart and William Smith College, his alma mater, and has moved to Geneva. He will develop strategy and train volunteers for a \$160 million capital campaign. Because this job will take a lot of his time and involve some travel, Jeremy has resigned as Vice Chair of MSAA. Our congratulations to Jeremy; we wish him well in his new career!

On a related note, MSAA member **Shannon Davis** has agreed to join the Executive Committee as a Member at Large. She is a Senior Exploring Executive with Otetiana Council and has served as Massawepie Business Manager (coincidentally, a position also once held by Jeremy). We welcome Shannon and the expertise she brings to the committee!



Archeology Merit Badge will be offered at camp in 2006! This was proposed by MSAA members **Gael** and **Phil Roberts** (camp Business Manager and Star Village Director, respectively) and approved by the Massawepie Program Committee. Phil is working with Steve Weisenreder, Camp Director, to make it happen. If you have suggestions, want to help, or could donate needed supplies or equipment, contact Phil at gaelphil51@yahoo.com or call (585) 334-5319.

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association has proposed that the formal dedication of this facility be held at 1:15pm on Saturday July 15, 2006. While still tentative, there has been no opposition voiced to the date. The Spring 2006 issue of this newsletter will have final information.

Although construction and landscaping were not finished, the new range was used during the 2005 camp season under the direction of Ray and Addy. Final construction details and weather-related landscaping problems will all be completed for the 2006 season.

We hope you'll be able to attend the dedication, as we look forward to a substantial turnout of MSAA members. Plan on the whole weekend if you can. This will be an ideal opportunity for a Staff Alumni Reunion while camp is in session!

NOTE: souvenir rocks (each accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity), results of the blasting required to make the area safe for shooting, were sold in the Pioneer Trading Post last year. More of these "Rifle Range Rocks" will be sold during Beaver Weekend 2006 for those of you who weren't at camp during the 2005 season. After that, the authenticated rocks will never be available again.

Fall Family Picnic & Clambake

by David Lippitt

The MSAA fall family picnic and clambake was another big success. On Saturday September 24, 2005 about 30 alumni and family members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon in Powder Mill Park, eating an abundance of clams, corn on the cob and salt potatoes, as well as the snacks and desserts participants brought. Dave Anderson from Rhode Island and John Poray from Indiana, who were in town for the weekend, added a multi-state flavor to the event. Our thanks to the cook crew and to all who made it a fun, filling and fulfilling event. We can't wait for next year!



Purchase of Massawepie by the Scouts – Part 2

by Peter Collinge

(Continued from Fall 2005)

Part of the delay in reaching a final price for Massawepie was due to the resistance of Richard Sherwood of Buffalo, the owner of a 20% stake in Massawepie Park, Inc., as the widower of Ruth Sykes Sherwood. In November of 1950, Sherwood sued George, Clyde, and Roy Sykes on behalf of his daughter (Ruth Larene Sherwood), presumably to block the sale until he agreed to the terms.

By December 1950, Fred Wellington had developed a 10-year cost schedule of \$377,909 for purchasing (at \$90,000) Massawepie and developing (based on other councils' experiences) four camps there. Each of the six District Committees had also submitted, at council request, a statement of their understanding and approval of the plan to sell Eagle Island in order to purchase Massawepie. In January 1951, an Otetiana group met with professional fundraiser James Trostle of Aderton-Johnson Associates. Trostle indicated that over 75% of the total would come from big donors of \$1000 or more, "rated" in advance by a committee and approached by 25 to 50 solicitors. Then, another 6000 prospects for gifts of \$100 or more should be approached by approximately 400 workers in the "general" campaign. He estimated a campaign cost of 6% of the total: 4% for his firm and 2% for literature and other expenses, and suggested hiring a fundraiser as soon as possible for a fall campaign.

On February 7, 1951, B. Emmet Finucane hosted a special meeting at the Rochester Club, attended by council president Carey Brown; past presidents M. Herbert Eisenhart, William Fay, George L. Todd; Finance Chairman Joseph Hockenos; Community Chest Director Richard Miller; and Scout Executive Fred Wellington. The group agreed to immediately seek to purchase Massawepie in hopes of at least limited use of the property that summer. They also agreed to propose formally a fall capital campaign using a cost schedule of \$408,000 (from Wellington's earlier estimates but decreasing the purchase price to \$85,000 and deleting the income from the sale of Eagle Island), to request United Way permission to seek a limited number of immediate contributions for a down payment and initial development work, and to seek Executive Board approval for the capital campaign and to increase the Massawepie purchase offer.

The next day, Wellington informed the field staff and secretaries of the overall plan (without exact dollar figures) but implored them not to spread this information for fear of "the let-down that will be experienced in the field" if the purchase offer does not go through. He also

wrote to Clyde Sykes on February 9 hinting that a new offer would be forthcoming, but indicating understanding that the Sykes were exploring other alternatives. Carey Brown wrote to the Community Chest on February 19 asking permission for a fall capital campaign for \$407,909, and citing the need for additional camping facilities due to an increase in membership by Scouts and Scouters from 9250 in 1948 to 13,150 in 1950. Brown explained that most of this growth was still in the Cub Scout age group, but would soon be entering Boy Scouts. On March 14, the Community Chest gave its formal approval of a \$408,000 fall capital campaign.

Also in March, Regional Scout Executive Charles Heistand urged Fred Wellington not to rush into offering camping at Massawepie until the facilities were ready, because hosting Scouts before the camp was ready had caused a serious backlash in several other councils. Wellington replied that only a provisional Explorer camp was now being considered for 1951. In April, Jack Merrell and Fred Wellington visited Newcomb Lake, where the price had recently dropped, as a possible alternative site for Otetiana Council or another council. They also stopped by Massawepie to see the extent of the timber damage from recent storms, in hopes of using this as bargaining leverage with the Sykes. Wellington reported to Carey Brown that, "No buildings were damaged (alas!)."

In June 1951, Richard Sherwood called on Fred Wellington to express his opposition to the sale, complaining that he could see no advantage to himself. Wellington referred this information to attorney Byron "Bunny" Johnson who was working on the sale. Sherwood also claimed that 60% of the stock interest in Mas-

sawepie Park was against the sale, but that any two brothers could force the sale by also voting Mrs. Wheaton's trustee share. On June 12, Clyde Sykes wrote to Carey Brown to accept his verbal offer of June 4 to sell the property for \$95,000, but Sykes included as conditions possession in the fall and exclusion of about 60-70 acres by Townline Pond and the personal property and all mineral rights. After a council Executive Committee meeting, Carey Brown countered on June 15 with a formal offer of \$105,000 for the entire property with no reservations other than personal property. (Brown and George Todd were so eager to finalize this process that they woke attorney Byron Johnson around midnight to draft the formal purchase offer!) On June 30, Clyde Sykes again proposed his offer of June 12, gave the acreage as between 2848 and 2911 acres, and suggested being allowed to sell the personal property in the fall after the cottages had been vacated. On July 6, a special breakfast meeting of the Otetiana Council Executive Board was held at the Hotel Rochester, at which the council accepted an agreement with the Sykes family following the terms of Carey Brown's June 15 proposal. The long purchase process ended with closing on the property in September 1951. But the work of raising funds and developing Massawepie had just begun!

Many historical documents relating to this article are available on our web site. From the home page click "MASSAWEPIE HISTORY" (in the upper right corner), and then click "Historical Documents." By clicking on "Photographs" you'll also find pictures related to this article, such as the one below.



BarkEater Year Two

by Brad VanAuken

The BarkEater honor camper program was established at Massawepie Scout Camps last summer (2005) to enhance the summer camping experience and to increase camp retention. Over two thirds (1,700 of 2,500) of those Scouts and adults who attended Massawepie Scout Camps this past summer received their BarkEater first year recognition. Many more adults received the recognition by participating in at least two full work weekends, receiving their award at the spring Beaver Weekend ceremony.

A committee is actively developing year two of the program for the summer of 2006. The program has progressive requirements and recognition for each of five years at camp. Each year will focus on a different part of Adirondack/Massawepie history. While the first year theme focused on the earliest history of the Adirondacks (geological and Native American), the second year theme will focus on early hunters and trappers. The years will be named as follows: Pioneer, Mountaineer, Forester, Voyageur, and BarkEater.

Adults, especially those who don't attend camp, have alternate requirements. Participate in at least two work weekends and receive your first year recognition at the Beaver Weekend campfire. If you have already earned your first year recognition, serve as a crew chief at the work weekends or bring someone new with you to at least two of the three work weekends and earn your second year recognition.

We hope you will have a chance to participate in the BarkEater program this year. Tell all of your Scouting friends about it. It is truly a unique program in BSA's North-east Region.

Below is a photo of the token received by each person who qualified for first year BarkEater recognition.



Square Foot Endowment Update by Peter Collinge

Around 2001, Otetiana Council established the Massawepie Square Foot endowment fund. Unlike the rest of the Otetiana endowment, which supports the council in general, this fund is specifically designated 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 through 2004:

	2003	2004
Balance at start of year	\$4,800	\$6,545
Donations added	\$1,745	\$4,190
Investment gain (loss)		\$863
Transferred out for camp use		-\$310
Balance at end of year	\$6,545	\$11,288

For now, the proceeds from this fund are being used to replace campsite equipment such as tents and cots. While the Square Foot endowment is still relatively small, as it grows it will become an important vehicle for keeping Massawepie operational as the Otetiana budget gets tighter each year. Thanks to all who have donated to this fund. Others who wish to donate may send a check payable to Otetiana Council Inc., with specific instructions to use the proceeds for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment, to Don DeClerck at Camp Cutler (see the mailing address on Page 1 of this newsletter).

MSAA Tee Shirt ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone (in case of questions) _____

	QUANTITY	X	COST	=	TOTAL
SHORT SLEEVE					
MEDIUM		X	\$10.00	=	
LARGE		X	\$10.00	=	
X-LARGE		X	\$10.00	=	
XX-LARGE		X	\$11.00	=	

LONG SLEEVE					
MEDIUM		X	\$13.00	=	
LARGE		X	\$13.00	=	
X-LARGE		X	\$13.00	=	
XX-LARGE		X	\$14.00	=	

SHIPPING: 1 or 2 shirts, add \$4; 3 or 4 shirts, add \$6 =

Make check payable to: **GRAND TOTAL \$** _____
Otetiana Council, Inc.

Membership News

These new members have joined the MSAA since the last newsletter:

Erin Burruto (Staff)

Dawn Hicks (Friend of Alumni)

Daniel Reitz (Central Staff, 1974-76)

The Association currently has 93 paid members, *up four from one year ago*. Please help recruit other Massawepie staffers or friends, or send us their addresses and we'll send them an invitation. Membership in the Association is also open to those who love Massawepie, but never served as a paid or volunteer staff member. If you know someone who wants to be part of the Association, is at least 18 years of age and in good standing with BSA and the Council (does not have to be registered), encourage them to join as a Friend of Alumni member. For \$10 in membership dues, Friends have full membership in the Association, except they cannot be officers. Membership forms for both are available under "About Us" on

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2006

12 MSAA Winter Rendezvous
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 1

MAY 2006

19-21 Skills Weekend at Massawepie
All Alumni Welcome, skill or no skill

JUNE 2006

2-4 Beaver Weekend at Massawepie
3 MSAA Annual Meeting, after dinner,
Loren Hakes Campfire Circle

JULY 2006

14-16 Staff Alumni Weekend at Massawepie
15 1:15pm, Dedication of the Ray and Addy
Meyering Rifle Range



www.MassStaffAlumni.org. The more the merrier! If your membership expired in May of last year or earlier (see the mailing label for your membership expiration date), please send in your renewal ASAP! In order to keep receiving newsletters, please renew today.

If you have moved please send your new address to: Peter Collinge, MSAA Secretary, 77 Tall Oak Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534-2639.

ROOTS

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Visit us on the web at
MassStaffAlumni.org

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TO: