I’m Freddy Stein, the new chair of the MSAA Executive Committee. 2018 was my seventh summer at Massawepie and I am on the off-season staff. I’m very excited and honored to be the chair, as I’ve seen firsthand the many ways MSAA members help current staff members and campers. I think we all agree that Massawepie is truly a unique place physically, but I’d argue that it is even more important for the memories that have been made there. For the 89 members of the MSAA, Massawepie brings us together; it also brings together over 2000 people every summer. For 67 years, the property has had a profound impact on many outside this organization. Several 2018 staffers have joined MSAA. We had a great turnout of members at the Columbus Day event at Camp Mountaineer, known as “Trail Days.” Planning has begun for the Massawepie Arctic Challenge, which takes place at Gannett every Martin Luther King Day Weekend. If you are interested in volunteering at these events, contact me. I’d be happy to talk with you. You’ll also find information in this newsletter. The MSAA Executive Committee is planning several Gatherings for 2019, including Winter, in January (details within); Spring, probably in April (details to come); and maybe Fall. I share my gratitude to this organization and its members. If we haven’t already met, I look forward to meeting you soon. Freddy
Treasurer’s Report (as of 10/30/18) by Peter

Balance on 12/31/17 .......................................................... $2,117

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<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<td>Dues</td>
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<td>Memorabilia (patches)</td>
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TOTALS .......................................................... $5,200.00 | $4,991.99

Balance as of 10/30/18 .......................................... $2,325

Your Association has had a positive year so far financially. Thanks to our generous members, we collected $2,840 for staff sleep comfort – a rested staff is a happy staff! Members also donated $1,425 to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund! In a new initiative, we spent $506 to buy special shirts for all 2018 staffers with 3 or more years of service.

Notes from Fall Exec. Committee Meetings by Tim

SEPTEMBER. We met at the SWC office on the 19th. Attending were Mary Beth, Peter, Sean, David, Jon, Mark, Kendall, Tim and George. Don, Mike and Stephanie were unable to attend.

A tee shirt was made to recognize 2018 staffers that have been on staff for three or more years. It was given out at the Staff Picnic after camp and was well received. Recognition of veteran staff members will grow. Discussion will continue. MSAA is the sponsor of a Venture Crew made up of camp staffers. Mark Pulvino is the Crew Advisor. There was a long, spirited discussion about the Crew. Mark will talk with the SWC Professional who filed the Charter to get answers to our questions and concerns and get a copy of the charter. Consensus is that it is fitting for the MSAA to be the sponsor, but is there enough interest in having a Crew by staffers? Mark and Kendall will contact those on the charter and report back.

We discussed a Fall/Winter Gathering. Most newer members are current or recent staffers. Their interests may differ from older members. Having an event over the holidays would enable them to attend while home on college break. Freddy & Jon will investigate having an event at Radio Social.

The next item was the 2019 Donor Option. Several ideas were put forth. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

Beaver Tales article responsibilities and time-line were set. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

OCTOBER: We met at the SWC office on the 24th. The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm. Attending were Mary Beth, Peter, David, Jon, Mark, Kendall, Tim and George. Don, Sean, Mike and Stephanie were absent.

We discussed recognition items for veteran camp staffers. It was agreed to continue using the 3+ years tee shirt. In 2019 a recognition will be introduced for staffers with 5+ years. Some ideas: knife, hat, mug, water bottle, daypack, fleece blanket. Appropriate staff will be polled about the options and results will be reported.

Peter noted he has too many larger size shirts and offered them for purchase.

Mark and Kendall reported on the Venture Crew. Mark said they have called those on the roster. To date, 10 (5 adults, 5 youth) said they were aware of the crew. Five youth were not aware. There are 9 more to talk to. Mark and Kendall will try to meet with Crew members on Nov. 24 to determine interest, and future plans if any.

Jon reported that a gathering can be hosted at Radio Social. January 6 at 1:30 pm or January 5 at 3 pm were suggested as dates which will accommodate college students on break. There are options for food, and there are many activities (all but two have fees). Jon and Freddy will check further. A page in the newsletter will serve as the flyer.

George reviewed the Beaver Tales article responsibilities and deadline.

The Donor Option for 2019 was next. We decided to help with the cost of running electricity to the Junior Staff site. See the article in this newsletter.

There will be a Council-sponsored Holiday party for the staffs from all three Camps (Massawepie, Babcock-Hovey and Cutler); no financial support from MSAA is expected by SWC.

Our next meeting will be January 23, 2019 at the SWC office. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

MSAA News & Notes by Peter

MSAA’s paid membership:

1/1/18 = 84 10/30/18 = 89

The year-end number may be higher if more renewals come in. Please recruit a friend; we’re still trying to break 100!

Five people joined the MSAA since Spring:

Brendan Flaherty, Chris Paul and Matt Thurston are all experienced staffers who served again in 2018; Scott Bishoping, Deputy Superintendent of the Wayne-Finger Lakes CEOs, has been volunteering in the kitchen at recent MSC off-season events; Bill Lawrence is an IT Engineer who volunteers to keep all SWC properties connected to the digital world. Welcome All!

Help Secure the Future of Massawepie by Peter

At least 10 Scout camps that operated in the Adirondacks in the 1970s are now closed. How can you assure that Massawepie stays open? One way is a bequest to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund in your will. Your attorney can craft appropriate language, but to be sure your gift is used as you wish you should include wording like: “...to the Seneca Waterways Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America (2320 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Rd., Rochester, NY 14623; EIN #16-0743108) for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund, with proceeds used prudently in perpetuity for maintenance of Massawepie Scout Camps, Tupper Lake, NY.”

Meeting notes were edited to fit allowed space. Ed.
2019 Donor Option: Power to the Staff  by Mark

As we looked for a 2019 Donor Option, we saw several opportunities. Our intention is always to make an impact for the staff or to make an impact on a program. We are proud to announce that for 2019 the MSAA will fund and help build a pavilion in the staff site, to which power will be run. Our plan is to construct one similar to what has been built in the Trailblazer area. Within the shelter will be picnic tables, lighting, outlets, and charging stations for staff phones and gadgets. The junior staff is going to love this! Property Superintendent Ben Geiger estimates cost of pavilion materials to be $2500, and cost for poles, cable, wiring and hardware to be $1000. So, our goal will be $3500. This will be listed on 2019 MSAA Renewal Forms. As always, donate $60 to the Donor Option and/or the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund and your one-year renewal is free!

2018 Donor Option Wrap-up  by George

The donation from Le Moyne College of 25 bunk bed sets and 50 extra-long mattresses, arranged by Property Superintendent Ben Geiger, came later than planned. But by the end of the summer nearly ALL old bunks and mattresses in cabins and other camp buildings were replaced! Six double bed mattresses, two double box springs, plus toppers and protectors for the mattresses were purchased. For tabin cots, enough 3/4” plywood for 50 bed boards was bought. The total cost for all this was $2167. Since you donated $2840, the other $673 was used to partially offset what the camp spent buying 4” foam mattresses and covers for the staff site cots. All in all, this was a very successful endeavor! We thank you and the staff thanks you. Thanks also to Rosemary Varga, who along with Ben, spearheaded the project.

Staff Recognition Initiative  by Peter

Why has the Alumni Association decided to begin a Camp Staff Recognition program? The Executive Committee has agreed to recognize veteran staffers, both as thanks for their efforts and to encourage them to return for additional years on staff. This August, 29 staffers with three or more years on staff were given special ringer tee shirts (see photos) to recognize their service. The logo on the new shirts, provided by the MSAA through your member dues, came from the 1953-54 Massawepie neckerchiefs. It’s getting harder to find enough quality summer camp staffers. Unemployment is low, Scouting membership numbers are down, and fewer teens are working at summer jobs. But the MSAA recognizes the crucial role of quality staffers in providing life-changing summer camp experiences for Scouts. To encourage staff members to return year after year, we will expand the program in 2019 to add a recognition for staff with five or more years of service. We’re also exploring the possibility of making these items available for sale to qualifying staff alumni, to help offset some of the costs.

Summer Camp 2018 Recap  by Jon

Massawepie Scout Camps had a very successful summer season in 2018. We encamped over 1,800 Scouts during the summer. Program offerings in Camp Pioneer included rifle and shotgun shooting, archery, swimming, sailing, hiking, nature, handcrafts and more. Our 2018 Camp Pioneer staff of over 70 young (and not so young) men and women provided instruction in over 50 merit badges. New for 2018 highlights included Sustainability and Archaeology merit badges, the revamped Cooking merit badge, and the Stand-Up Paddle Boarding BSA award. The success of our summer camping season can be measured in the year-round, behind-the-scenes work of the many volunteers that Massawepie is lucky to have. Thank you!

Golf at Massawepie?  History, by Peter

From the Tupper Lake Free Press files, May 23-30, 1968:
“Local golf enthusiasts who thought the Big Wolf course, opened in the 1920s, was the first in the Tupper area had to revise their thinking recently. Leslie Rist of Newcomb, an Adirondack history buff, brought in to the Free Press a unique souvenir which turned up at the Tahawus Club: a three-handled trophy cup inscribed ‘Childwold Park, Handicap Golf Cup, 2nd Prize, August 25, 1897’, proof that a golf course existed in this area more than 50 years earlier than the Big Wolf nine. The Childwold Park Hotel, built in the late 1880s by Addison Child, opened in 1890, and both tennis courts and a golf course were among its attractions. The hotel closed in 1909.”
(Note: The golf course was in the field from the current main camp parking lot to the climbing tower.)

Promoting the MSAA  by Peter

To help improve recognition of the Alumni Association, last spring we ordered 3"x3" [the sample at right is reduced to fit here] stickers, designed by George Varga, to place on some of the items around camp that we have donated over the years (kayaks, bikes, stoves, sailboats, etc.). If you are at camp and spot one of these stickers, be sure to point it out to any potential alumni members nearby! (Unfortunately, they don’t stick well on mattresses and shirts.)
Thank you for your support this past June. We had a successful weekend getting projects done and feeding all the volunteers. The Culinary Fusion team was on top of their game in the kitchen, as always. Alumni were everywhere; we were very well represented. Everything from trail work to freshening the campfire circle, waterfront set up and roofing was done that weekend. Photos here show a sampling of projects and tasks, but many more were accomplished.

SAVE THE DATE!
Beaver Weekend 2019
May 31 - June 2

Calling all Massawepie Staff Alumni, family, and friends! Beaver Weekend is Massawepie’s largest and most important work weekend. Meals and accommodations are provided all weekend. For more information, or to suggest a certain project or talent, please contact Ben Geiger, Property Superintendent, at 518-359-3900. Jon Northrup, Camp Director

Thirsty Moose, in Transition
by Peter

The Thirsty Moose (nee Dumas’) in Childwold closed October 14. Mickey and Jan announced that, after 16 years as proprietors, they have found new owners and are retiring. Over 100 people showed up for a going away party that Saturday evening. The new owners are from Mexico, NY and are in their 40’s. There is no word yet on a reopening date, but in a ‘we’re closing, thank you patrons’ ad in the Tupper Lake Free Press, Mickey and Jan stated, “Watch for the opening of the new THIRSTY MOOSE ADK.” Hopefully, the reopening will occur before Beaver Weekend 2019.
We hope to see you there! Please invite friends from camp staff who may not be on our list.

Recent/current staffers who join MSAA at this event get a two-year membership for the price of a one-year membership: $15; save $10!

If your membership has expired, please join us and renew at the event.

To help with ordering, we NEED to know how many will attend.

PLEASE respond NO LATER THAN Sunday December 23rd!

We need name/s and number attending.
Please respond to Jon Northrup: email northrup.jonathan@gmail.com; text or call 585-354-5003.

We will gather at Radio Social, 20 Carlson Road (off Blossom Road, in the old Stromberg-Carlson warehouse), Rochester, for an enjoyable afternoon of camaraderie. The focus will be on reliving our time at Massawepie. Please bring photos, memorabilia, memories and friends.

We will have tables reserved in the bar area starting at 1:30.

There will be a $5.00 per person fee (pay Peter Collinge at the event, cash or check) to cover some apps and finger foods to share. They serve other food which you are welcome to buy. The Brunch menu will be served until 3pm. The Bar Snacks menu will be available from 3pm on*.

You pay for your own beverages. Radio Social serves wine, cocktails, beer, hard cider, soft drinks and more*.

If you imbibe, please do so sensibly or bring a designated driver.

Bowling and many other games and activities are available (unless reserved); all but two have fees*.

*For more info and details, plus directions and a map, go to radio-social.com any time.
Off-Season Events...
Massawepie Outdoor Challenges

The MOC Fall Event – Trail Days by Freddy

Several members of the Alumni Association went up to Camp Mountaineer Columbus Day Weekend (October 5-8) to help with the first ever “Trail Days.” Troops were able to experience a true outpost experience! They stayed in Camp Mountaineer Friday night, and then could camp in an outpost on their second night. Saturday morning featured round robins that were a mix of games and skill builders all taught by summer camp staff. That afternoon, troops headed for outposts throughout the property to camp overnight. Sunday morning brunch was served in the Camp Mountaineer dining hall.

MOC IS BRINGING ON THE MAC FOR MLK WEEKEND! by Freddy

The MSAA will also help (kitchen crew and other event staff) at the Massawepie Arctic Challenge MLK weekend, January 18-21, 2019. This frigid weekend will let troops experience camp during the winter and will include tubing at Mt. Pisgah, a Wild Center visit, and many activities at camp. Troops can camp in the snow or stay in Gannett Lodge, the headquarters for the weekend. It is always a sold out and fun event! Want to help? Contact me.

2019 MSAA EVENTS

Jan. 6 ...............MSAA Holiday Gathering, see Page 5
Jan. 18-21 ..........MOC/MAC, Gannett Lodge, Massawepie
Jan. 23 .............MSAA Exec. Com. Meeting, 5:30pm, SWC HQ
March/April? .......MSAA Spring Gathering, TBA
May 10-12 ............Pre-Skills, Massawepie
May 17 .............Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting - Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC
May 17-19 ..........Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill!
May 29-30 ............Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects!
May 31-June 2 ...Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
June 1 ..............MSAA Annual Meeting, ~8pm, Massawepie
June 16-22 .........NER Camp School at Massawepie
June 23-29 ......Staff Week at Massawepie
June 30-Aug. 10 ...Weeks One to Six at Massawepie
Aug. 10-13 ........Camp tear down days, Alumni help welcome
Oct. 11-14 .........MOC Fall Event, Camp Mountaineer
Oct. 18-20 ........Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie – come help button up the camp for winter!

Membership Renewal

If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, your membership has expired. Renew NOW to keep receiving this newsletter, and to continue supporting the future of Massawepie!

Go GREEN! Save MSAA (YOUR) $$! by George

41 members get Beaver Tales & flyers via email. A few are hand delivered. We still spent over $130 on postage so far in 2018 and postage is rising again! My donated costs for paper, toner & supplies continue to grow. Many groups will mail only to members without email. We don’t want to be that way. Please ASK to get YOUR Beaver Tales and event flyers in pdf format via e-mail. You’ll get them sooner and save postage costs. Send your “ask” to: gjvarga@rochester.rr.com. Thanks!