Notice of MSAA Annual Meeting: June 4, 2016

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's 2016 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie on Saturday, June 4, following the evening meal. We'll meet in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle unless the weather keeps us in the Pioneer Dining Hall. Under our Rules of Operation, elections will be held for officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. (See the Page 2 article about nominations.) Reports of 2015-16 activities will be shared, along with plans for the rest of 2016. Ideas for the future role of the MSAA at camp, and for how to grow our organization with staff and former staff who are younger, are solicited. Come share your ideas and hear from others, as part of the fun and service of Beaver Weekend! The closing activity will be the traditional group photo shoot! Some members will then return to projects (while some never left them). Socializing may continue, as always, at one or more locations in the greater Childwold/Gale area.

Beaver Weekend, plus 1991 & 2006 Staff Reunions: June 3-5 by Mark

Not only is this our Annual Meeting weekend, it is the most important work weekend for Massawepie! Meals (Friday breakfast through Sunday breakfast) and a place to sleep are furnished. Let us know when you'll be there (you can come a day or two early – Pre-Beaver Days), how many will be in your group, and project preference if any. Contact me by e-mail mpulvino@rochester.rr.com or call 585-645-5421. I'll send the info to Property Superintendent Ben Geiger, coordinator of projects and housing. Here are some MSAA focuses: stain & straighten/level benches at the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle, add mulch as needed, plus general clean-up; Culinary Infusion Services Team (kitchen crew); waterfront set up; and paint the main Office. A more complete list of projects is on Page 3 – there is something for everyone. It is an ambitious list and will take the efforts of many volunteers to complete every project! Your participation (along with anyone you can recruit to help) is more important than ever! I need a project manager since I cannot be at Beaver Weekend this year. It's an easy job – just make sure everyone stays busy. Contact me if you are willing to take on this task.

We'll celebrate the 10th & 25th anniversaries of staff from 2006 and 1991 respectively, with reunions! We're looking for one or two staffers from each of those years to be point people for recruiting others from those years to come to Beaver Weekend. Contact me if you can help. Join us in this 65th year of Scout camping! It's a super opportunity to give back to Massawepie, meet new friends and see old ones. We look forward to seeing YOU!

CHAIR'S STUMP Spring has almost sprung and I'm sure a few of you enjoyed this non winter. With spring comes projects and cleaning, and prep for summer. We will be having our annual meeting in early June (see article above), which would be a great opportunity to help Massawepie participating with our Beaver Weekend crew prepping camp for the Scouts, and toget together with many Alumni members. In October we had a successful event based at Mountaineer called the Seneca Waterways Council 46 Peak Challenge. It was so successful that we are looking at doing a Saranac Lake 6er event on Columbus Weekend 2016. I was amazed at the number of Alumni that helped with SWC 46 Peak Challenge, and could not have done it without them. We had a great showing and involvement of current and recent camp staff. They are such a great group of staffers, have become close friends and have a passion for Massawepie. Continues on Page 5...
2016-2017 Nominees for the MSAA Executive Committee

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

Mark Pulvino, for Chair
______________________________  Sean Glenney  Mike Knittel
Tim Smith, for Secretary
______________________________  David Lippitt  Stephanie VonBacho
Peter Collinge, for Treasurer
______________________________  Richard Wright
George Varga, for Past Chair/B.T. Editor

for Member at Large: (next column)

Additional nominations for these positions or for the openings must be submitted in advance of the meeting to Secretary Tim Smith (contact info on Page 1) or another Officer. We need new Executive Committee members! Please contact Tim or one of the other officers if you are interested in joining us, or know of a good candidate. We especially need younger members on the committee (and the Association in general), but welcome anyone willing to serve, including new MSAA members. Officers must be staff alumni members of the Association; Members at Large can be in the “Friends of Massawepie” membership category.

Membership Renewal Info  by Peter

Please check your Membership Renewal Form that’s with this issue: pink, expired; yellow, expiring June 30; green, expiring 2017 or later. If it’s pink or yellow, please renew NOW – we don’t want to lose a valuable member like you and you don’t want more reminders. Just send in $15 for a year, or $25 for two years, or a $60+ donation which includes a free one-year membership. Donations must be to the Mass. Square Foot Endowment Fund; see article on this page. Keep your membership current, help Massawepie, and keep getting this fine newsletter. Even if not renewing this year please return the form to update any personal information, OR to make a donation. And please ask a friend to join the MSAA!

Scouter Gone Home – Jerry Turner  by Peter

Long-time Scouter and MSC staffer Jerry Turner died on January 28 at the age of 83. He taught in the Rush-Henrietta School District for 30 years. Jerry was the long-time Scoutmaster of Troop 334 in Rush, and was awarded the Silver Beaver in 1984. He was on staff at Massawepie from 1980-90, first as the Camp Forester Quartermaster then running the Central Warehouse. Starting in 1984, Doris (Jerry’s wife of 59 years) was on staff as the Pioneer chef. Their children, Doug, Russ, Ginnie and Nancy, all were on staff, as were grandchildren Michelle, Samantha and Justin. After “retiring” from Massawepie, Jerry was a Campmaster at Camp Cutler, where he also helped Doris in the Trading Post. They joined the MSAA soon after its founding in 2000. Jerry will be missed by his many friends.

The Turner Trek Center Project Update

AND New Donor Match Challenge  by Peter

In 2015 we started raising money for the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (as our Donor Option) toward naming the Trek Center for the Turner family, who collectively have served over 100 summers on MSC staff (Doug and Laura will be on Trek staff again in 2016). This Endowment is invested, with the proceeds used to fund maintenance of and equipment for Massawepie, forever! The Council Executive Board has agreed that the naming can occur when our goal of $25,000 is reached.

In the first year of this campaign $12,765 has been donated. That’s 51%! If we can do that this year, we’ll meet the goal. Please consider a generous gift toward this project via your membership renewal form (attached). As an added incentive, an anonymous donor has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar all gifts received for this project during May and June of 2016. Your donation, or additional donation, now of $100 (for example) will be worth $200 toward meeting the campaign goal. As usual, any gifts of $60 or more will also qualify the donor for a 1-year membership (or renewal) in the MSAA. Donor recognitions are listed in the flyer on the MassStaffAlumni.org website.

Every summer since 1972 there was probably a Turner (or several) on staff at MSC. In particular, Doug’s 28-year service as Trek Director and Laura’s work as his assistant have touched hundreds of Scouts and staffers. Let’s complete this campaign in 2016 so that Doris and the late Jerry Turner and their seven descendants who have worked on Massawepie staff can be recognized, and the Square Foot Endowment Fund can be strengthened to better support the future of Massawepie!

Finance Report  by Peter

While the balance in the MSAA account dropped during 2015, it was for a good reason, and overall we had a good year financially. Our big expense was a donation of $1000 from our treasury (beyond your individual donations) to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment to support the Turner Trek Center project (see separate article). Here’s a summary of the year. Balance on 12/31/14, $3516. Income: dues, $420; Square Foot member donations, $8625; Winter Gathering surplus, $28; memorabilia sales, $10; total, $9083. Expenses: postage, $29; magnets, $167; to council for Square Foot fund, $9625; total, $9821. Balance on 12/31/15, $2778.
MSAA News & Notes  by Peter

After growing in 2014, the number of MSAA members shrank a bit in 2015. New members often come via word-of-mouth, so please ask friends to join! Speaking of new members, we welcome five: Ginnie Turner Lacoste worked on staff from 1981-1985. She served as Central Clerk, Mountaineering Aide, Forester Trading Post Director, and Driver. Yes, she is part of the famous Turner family that collectively has served over 100 years on Massawepie staff. (Ginnie actually joined before the last newsletter but got overlooked somehow — oops!) Dick Trier, Reservation Director (and Otetiana Council Director of Camping) from 1986-1989, earned a membership with a donation to the Turner Trek Center project, as did Carol Thiel, a long-time Massawepie volunteer and wife of Treasurer Peter Collinge. Two current staffers joined at our Winter Gathering. Jon Northrup worked at Trailblazers from 2005-2011 and has been Program Director since 2012. Mary Beth Boyle was Pioneer Trading Post Manager from 2011-2013, Assistant Program Director/BarkEater Director for 2014-15, and will be Senior Commissioner in 2016. It’s great to have these key staffers as members of the MSAA!

Beaver Weekend Projects  by George (from Ben)

Projects of special interest to MSAA are mentioned on Page 1. But there is a long, ambitious list of other projects (below; not complete by any means) requiring many volunteers, including you!

Two renovations are on the list. Cabin MC-19 needs a new bathroom, including replacing the floor covering. The room will be gutted and all fixtures will be replaced with new. The Pioneer Scoutcraft Pavilion roof is being completely renovated.

Several construction teams are needed. In the shop, 24 new tent platform halves and yokes will be built. 1500 gallon latrines will be built at Cranberry A & B Troop Sites. A new pavilion will be built in the Trailblazer Area. A vital project is to build a lean-to at the Four Points outpost. This will be used by the new Forester program! If a crew is available, a second lean-to will be built at the Mountaineer ECON site.

Two cabins will have metal roofs put on; refrigeration coils in 3 places need cleaning. Among the general tasks are: organize nuts & bolts in the shop; cut down and remove hazardous trees from campsites; take tarps, tents, mattresses and new platforms and yokes to campsites, and campsite set up (after tree work is done in some); general camp and building cleanup; stain the Sports building and paint trim & window frames; paint Cabins MC-7 & MC-8; clean out culverts & basins on Mountaineer & ECON roads; mow all fields & grassy areas; assess & make repairs if possible to mountain bikes; and more.

Winter Gathering…Things That Make You Go MMM! (MSAA March Madness)  by Mark, including photos

We held our 2016 event on March 6th at Swiftwater Brewing in Rochester. Turnout was great — over 25 Alumni and guests attended! We were impressed to have Alumni present from each of the past six decades! Included were new faces, from current staff to some from long ago. Stories were shared from the many years of Massawepie represented. Great brews, spirits and treats were enjoyed. It was great to see so many of you and I appreciate the time spent together; we never know when, or if, we’ll see each other again. So seize the next opportunity if you missed this one. We will continue our (ad)ventures at another local brewery late next winter.

Camp 2016  by Dave Cheney

Staff hiring goes well. Jon Northrup is back as Program Director. Mary Beth Boyle will move up to Senior Commissioner. Several Area Directors and many other staff return. There’ll be “new-to-staff” Directors in Archery, Trailblazers and Scoutcraft, while in ECON and Handicraft, staffers move up to Director. I still need an Archery Asst., Kitchen Aides and Lifeguards. If you, or someone you know, are interested email me: david.cheney@scouting.org soon!

There are two new programs for 2016. The Forester Program (see below) is BIG, and a Mud Run has been set up near COPE and will be offered twice a week during open program. New Merit Badges are Oceanography & Plant Science in ECON and Search and Rescue in Scoutcraft.

Massawepie is known widely for having innovative programs. In 2016 we will do it again by offering the Forester Program — five days and four nights spent deep in the forests of Massawepie. The base camp is the Four Points Outpost, at the north end of Long Bay, which will have a lean-to, an outhouse and camper tents. A program shelter will be erected on the shore of nearby Lost Pond. Scouts will gain experience in patrol cooking of both conventional and backpacking meals. They will master the conservation of necessary staples such as water, learn how to build the ultimate shelter and give it the ultimate test by sleeping in it. Scouts will arrive with their troop on Sunday and stay with them that night, attending a brief orientation meeting. On Monday after breakfast it’ll be time to head out to the Forester Program site. In the five-day program Scouts will earn merit badges (some full, some partial), do most of Leave No Trace training, learn some essential leadership skills and more. In addition, Scouts will see parts of Massawepie rarely seen, all over the reservation! Forester will become the definitive scout summer program, and Scouts will experience Massawepie unlike ever before!

Freddy Stein,
Forester Program Director
Massawepie...A Boy’s Memory of Heaven  by Father Guido Verbeck

Tupper Lake, New York, Sunday, June 8, 2014

1949...I was eight years old for all but two days of it. We purchased an old house in Mendham, New Jersey, built in 1742, which had had two old barns on the property. During the Revolutionary War the larger of the two had served as a hospital for General Washington’s army camped at Morristown, while the second was a casket factory...but I digress. That summer was our first of three at what was to become my favorite spot, Lake Massawepie, near Tupper Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. The name, Massawepie, is of Iroquois origin meaning “the beavers’ lake.” In 1890, The Childwold Park House, along with 21 “Queen Anne” cottages, was opened on the shore of the lake catering to affluent residents of New York City. They would take the New York Central Railroad to Utica and then north to Childwold, being met by a stagecoach for the seven mile ride to the hotel. A few years later it was doubled in size but it was closed in 1909. In the summers of the early 1920s, Manlius School, where my grandfather and great-grandfather both served as Headmaster, held a summer camp there for the cadets and thus began my family’s association with the lake. The hotel was dismantled after World War II, but the cottages, some outbuildings and the boathouse remained.

I guess the word that best describes the Massawepie of 1949 was “rustic.” The “cottages” were hardly cottages since most had three or four bedrooms, a living room with a HUGE rock fireplace, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. No electricity; we had kerosene lamps and a two burner kerosene stove. The kitchen porch had an icebox, filled two or three times a week with ice which had been cut from the lake in the winter and stored in sawdust in the Icehouse for the summer. No hot water; you heated what you needed on the stove - baths were taken in the lake. No telephone, but at age 8 who cared? There was one at the Guide House near the property entrance and if you got a call during the day Mr. or Mrs. Lee would bring you the message. The bathroom had indoor plumbing: bathtub, sink and a toilet with a tank up near the ceiling. Ours was Cottage 2, two stories with a high-peaked roof and a porch that wrapped around most of three sides. My parents’ bedroom was off the living room, mine was upstairs on the front with a door leading out to a balcony which was also the front porch roof. My brother, who was three years old, had his own room and my parents hired a college girl for the summer who cared? There was one at the Guide House near the property entrance and if you got a call during the day Mr. or Mrs. Lee would bring you the message. The bathroom had indoor plumbing: bathtub, sink and a toilet with a tank up near the ceiling. Ours was Cottage 2, two stories with a high-peaked roof and a porch that wrapped around most of three sides. My parents’ bedroom was off the living room, mine was upstairs on the front with a door leading out to a balcony which was also the front porch roof. My brother, who was three years old, had his own room and my parents hired a college girl for the summer who took care of him. She didn’t have to take care of me, I was eight, and nine and ten! A dirt road ran past the front of the house and on the other side a trail went down to the lake and our dock.

We arrived with all five of us in our 1940 Oldsmobile convertible in mid-June. The first job was to unpack and put away. Then Dad and I went down and put in the dock. Once that was done, we went to the boathouse and got a canoe, a rowboat and an Adirondack guideboat. This latter was a unique craft made out of mahogany; I think…double-ended like a canoe with two sets of oars and oarlocks. When you got two rowers working well together it was quite fast. We brought them back one by one and attached them to the dock. No motors! There had never been a motor on the lake but I remember the year a float plane landed on it by mistake (they were looking for Cranberry Lake). It caused great commotion, but it was decided that since the plane’s motor didn’t touch the water, there still technically had not been a motor on the lake. I didn’t care, I was eight… but I thought the float plane was cool! Finally, Dad and I would row out about 2/3 of the way to Crown Point and drop a buoy marking his fishing spot. The Lake Trout fishing was excellent as I remember. Dad would go out every morning early and also in the evening. He taught me how to clean them, and it was at Massawepie I caught my first fish. Dad stayed a week at the start of the summer and a week at the end. We stayed for six more in between. I don’t remember being bored for a moment…Massawepie was Paradise for a young boy. We didn’t have radio, let alone television, so I didn’t miss those. Who wanted to be indoors anyway! Continues on Page 5...
Every day was full. I had my bike so I could go anywhere, often with other boys who came with their families. We would attach playing cards to our bike frames by the back tire with clothes pins, sticking the cards into the spokes and pretend we had motorcycles. There were miles of roads to ride. We played with cars and trucks in the dirt, swim, boated, fished, explored, hiked, picnicked, bowled at the old Bowling Alley and played tricks on the girls. There was an old building from the hotel that had servants' quarters upstairs and a storage area downstairs. It was filled with stuff including a complete soda fountain, and what boy doesn’t like crawling around stuff. Old soda fountain faucets and pumps make an awesome space ship or steam train or…. The barn at the Guide House had a half-full hayloft which was perfect for hay forts. A hike part way around the lake brought us to the abandoned Camp Manhattan, or “The Porcupine Cabin” as we called it due to the prodigious number of porcupines purported to live under the floor, though nobody ever saw one there. My cousin’s Great Dane did sniff one once near the ice house and it took hours to get the quills out of her nose. There were skunks too, and deer and rabbits and beavers and muskrats and mink and moose, though I don’t remember seeing a moose either. We learned how to tell what animals had been there by tracks and droppings. My dad bought me my first rifle when I was 10, a Mossberg .22 semi-automatic, and taught me how to shoot. We had a small range set up down an unused road past Cabin 1, but I couldn’t shoot unless he was with me.

At night, after supper, we played card, board and memory games, charades and a hundred other things around the fireplace, usually by the soft light of kerosene lamps and a fire. S'Mores were a frequent treat and Dad kept a box of Hershey bars with almonds hidden and meted out one treat a day - never could find that box. Sometimes we stayed up to look at a sky paved with millions of stars and I will never forget seeing the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights, on a couple of occasions, though we usually went to bed shortly after dark. And the loons! Who can forget the eerie sound of the loons drifting across the lake in the evening.

We took a weekly trip to Tupper Lake, looking forward to it with great anticipation. My mother went to the Laundromat, did the shopping, and then we went to the soda fountain to get a hot fudge sundae for a quarter. We had a dime to spend at Woolworth’s; it was always hard to figure out what to get. I remember saving up for three weeks to get…something… I forget now, but it must have been important. And there was the annual hike up Mt. Arab. A ranger was stationed at the fire tower on top and he taught us how to use the circular map to locate fires and then report them.

1951 was our third and last year. The property was sold that fall to the Boy Scouts from Rochester. What a perfect spot for a Scout Camp! Still is. I am blessed with the chance to return each summer for a few days to help get it ready for the boys who will get to enjoy that little piece of Heaven. The Scouts have maintained the beauty of the place. Thank you. Some Scouts have wondered about the new outhouse that was built near a camp site by the Parade Field. It has a gold-colored “2” on it. Most think it’s because that’s where you go “number 2.” A select few know it sits on the site of the old Cottage 2 and a summer occupant from log ago (?) gave the Ranger the number to affix when construction was completed. By all accounts we were spoiled by the richness of nature, the simplicity of life and the joy of youth. Is it any wonder Massawepie has remained my favorite place over the years? Amid the chaos and noise of the world, my mind drifts back to those idyllic days of childhood and that most perfect of places. I’m glad that there are Scouts every year building their own memories as I did. Today, during the summer, I travel across this country in my truck camper enjoying the awesome beauty God created simply to share with us. “Enjoy,” He says. “I made it for you.” From a grateful and thankful heart, I reply, “Yes, you did and I love it all… but especially Massawepie.”

During Father Guido’s Massawepie visits described above it was still owned by the Sykes family. His family connections with Scouting and the property go back much further. His great-grandfather, William Verbeck, started the National Scouts of America at the Manlius School (suburban Syracuse) as one of the first U.S. Boy Scout organizations. William merged his group with the new Boy Scouts of America in 1910, and was appointed as one of three National BSA Commissioners (with Daniel Beard and Peter Bomus), serving from 1910-1912. Later, Father Guido’s father and grandfather ran a private “Camp Massawepie” for boys on the grounds of the former Hotel Childwood in the 1920’s, in conjunction with the Manlius School. Father Guido is now retired and lives in Shreveport, LA. He has helped at several Beaver Weekends since 2009, and will serve as Camp Chaplain on the 2016 Massawepie staff. Peter

Editor’s Note: I have judiciously (I hope) edited this memoir for space requirements. G.V.
**Save the Date!**

Our annual Fall Family Picnic has been scheduled. As in recent years, we’ll do just clams/butter. Attendees will bring their choice of a dish to pass. Full details will be sent to regional members in early September. But mark your calendars now with Sunday September 25th as the date. Location, time, etc. are yet to be finalized.

**Go GREEN! Save MSAA $!**

Though over 40 members get Beaver Tales via email and seven or more copies are hand delivered, we still spent $29 on postage last year! And my donated costs for paper, toner & mailing supplies continue to grow. Many organizations will mail only to members without email. We don’t want to be that way. Please sign up to get YOUR Beaver Tales in pdf format via e-mail. You’ll get it sooner **AND in color!** All mailed copies are printed on my laser instead of my color ink jet, to save my donated time/expense. Send your request to me at: gjvarga@rochester.rr.com. Thanks!

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**2016 EVENTS**

May 20....... Annual Massawepie Conservation Meeting, Friday morning, Gannett Lodge, MSC

May 20-22…Spring Skills Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni welcome – skill or no skill! Trail clearing volunteers needed, contact Peter.

June 1 & 2…Pre-Beaver Days – come early – help prepare for the weekend projects and get an early start on some (see article within)

June 3-5…Beaver Weekend at Massawepie - ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend! (see article within)

June 4…… MSAA Annual Meeting following Beaver Weekend dinner, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle or the Dining Hall!

September 25…Annual Fall Family Picnic & Clams Details to follow

Sept. 30-Oct. 2…Fall Skills Weekend at Massawepie – Help button up camp for the winter