

FALL 2024 BEAVER TALES

Photos from MSAA Alumni

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

Providing Spirit, Service
and Support since 2000!

Summer 2024 Recap! By Matt Thurston, 2024 Camp Director

Camp Pioneer 2024 was another great summer as we continue to bring the Massawepie experience to a new generation of Scouts and Leaders. We hosted over 1,550 Scouts and 600 Leaders. We also saw substantial growth in our Trek Program's attendance with just under 60 Scouts and 25 Leaders.

As always, camp would have been impossible this year without a great staff, and the many volunteers and alumni that provide support to camp throughout the year. I'd like to express my appreciation for all the volunteers who stepped in to support Camp Pioneer's Business and Trading Post operations, staff appreciation events, and set-up and tear-down needs.

See Page 5 for exciting news for 2025!



Knowing trees, I understand
the meaning of patience.
Knowing grass, I can
appreciate persistence.

Hal Borland

Executive Committee

Chair

Mary Beth Boyle

Vice Chair

Jacob Emery

Past Chair

Jon Northrup

Treasurer

Bill Boyle

Secretary

Tim Smith

M-a-L & BT Editor

Kendall Smith

M-a-L, Historian & Webmaster

Peter Collinge

Members-at-Large

Don DeClerck

Christielee Geiger

Mike Knittel

David Lippitt

Mark Pulvino

Staff Advisor

Matt Thurston

Council Program Director,

Massawepie Scout Camps

Matthew.Thurston@scouting.org

MSAA USPS Address

MSAA

Seneca Waterways Council

2320 Brighton-Henrietta TL Rd

Rochester, NY 14623

**** NEW MSAA E-mail Address! ****

MassawepieAlumni@senecawaterways.org

MSAA Web Site

MassStaffAlumni.org



Winter Social Gathering at L&M Lanes!

The MSAA Executive Committee will be hosting a Winter Social Gathering at L&M Lanes in Rochester on Saturday, December 28th, 2024 from 5pm to 7pm. Bowling, memorabilia, and socialization will be bountiful! The cost to attend is \$20/person and includes bowling (and shoes), pizza and wings, and soft drinks. A cash bar is also available (if you choose, please imbibe responsibly). If you were on the 2024 Camp Pioneer Staff, your cost is discounted to \$10! Please RSVP by Fri 12/20 (so we can order enough food) to massawepialumni@senecawaterways.org.



L&M Lanes
873 Merchants Rd
ROC, NY 14609

Every Day We Find It, the Massawepie Connection

There is a theory that all people are connected through a chain of six acquaintances or less and I have no doubt in my mind that Massawepie plays a huge role in making and finding these connections.

I know I can speak for many others when I tell the experience of talking to a 'thought to be' stranger and of course, somehow Massawepie makes its way into the course of conversation. Perhaps my new friend went there as a child, enjoyed family camp, worked there for a summer, or just has a family or friend connection. Regardless, we end up sharing stories, comparing notes, and of course asking each other if we know so-and-so.

Over the years I have repeatedly found this Massawepie connection and although it is always a surprise and unexpected, as soon as it's made there is an immediate familiarity. We share a bond and are privileged to be part of a great community. We are both privileged to be part of the Massawepie family.

As the new chair of the Alumni Association, I look forward to continuing to make these connections and plan to build upon them. We have seen great growth in the Association over the years and it's been wonderful to see new members volunteer and give their time and talent back to the place that has given them so much.

It's always fun to make a connection with someone new and get a reminder of how small the world is. When you can make the Massawepie connection, it is another thing entirely.

To all reading, thank you for your connection and for being a part of our great Massawepie family. **Mary Beth Boyle**

Treasurer's Report as of 9/30/24 By Bill

Many thanks to our generous Massawepie alumni who have donated \$37,060 toward the Massawepie shower house improvement project! A significant donation will allow for renovations beyond the original plans to replace vanities and mirrors, towel racks, benches, and flooring. Upgrades will continue into 2025. We've also received donations of \$1,650 so far in 2024 to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund (see separate article), plus special and extremely generous donations of \$110,000 toward other Massawepie projects.

At the end of 2023, our account balance was \$4,913. As of September 30, after the income and expenses shown below, our balance is up to \$5,089. Extra funds in our account are typically eventually used for staff recognition or donated toward a project or to the Square Foot Fund. This year, we did give out 4 "3-year staffer" shirts to those eligible on the 2024 staff. Again, thanks to all of the MSAA members, donors and volunteers for making these projects and recognitions possible!



Election of the new Chair!

<u>Category</u>	<u>(Through 9/30)</u>	<u>2024 Income</u>	<u>2024 Expense</u>
Dues (and misc. donations)		\$750.00	
Administrative Expenses (mailing, website)			\$180.18
Camp Project Donations		\$37,060.00	\$37,060.00
Other Camp Projects (transferred to council)		\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00
Square Foot Endowment Donations		\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
Memorabilia sales		\$5.00	
Staff recognition (3 year staff shirts)			\$399.00
	Totals	\$149,465.00	\$149,289.18

Has your MSAA membership expired? If you received a renewal form with this newsletter, your membership has lapsed. Renew now to keep receiving this fine newsletter, and to keep supporting the future of Massawepie!

Square Foot Endowment Fund Supports Massawepie! By Bill

What does it mean to donate \$50 to dedicate a square foot (or \$350 for a square yard) of Massawepie? Donations to the Massawepie Square Foot Endowment Fund support Massawepie now and for the future! All funds received are invested, and 5% of the average fund balance is taken out each year to support maintenance and equipment at Massawepie.

Thanks in part to over \$70,000 donated by the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association since 2000, the Square Foot Fund now generates over \$6,500 each year for Massawepie. So far this year \$1,650 has been donated to the Square Foot Fund by members of the Association.

Donations can be made to the Square Foot fund with your Alumni Association membership renewal, as a memorial or tribute gift to the Council designated for the Square Foot Fund, from an IRA, or as a designated beneficiary in your will.

For more information or to discuss details, see senecawaterways.org/square-foot-fund/ or contact the Seneca Waterways Council's Director of Development, Billy Jo Jayne, at BillyJo.Jayne@Scouting.org.



2025 Donor Option – Sports Area By Kendall

The Executive Committee has selected the Sports (and Mountain Bike) Area to be the focus for our 2025 Donor Option. The improvements to the shower house facilities (2024 Donor Option) will continue into spring 2025!

Sports is a very popular program area at Camp Pioneer, with the offering of Sports and Athletics merit badges, fun open program activities, a disc golf course, and a full fleet of BMX and mountain bikes professionally maintained by MSAA volunteers.

Our initial goals include:

- Replace the old wooden soccer goal frames/nets with modern and mobile units
- Purchase new equipment with the feedback of recent Sports staff members
- Add a concrete slab to the basketball area (potential winter activities as well!)
- Purchase new bicycle helmets and other safety gear

The Sports and Mountain Bike Area means a lot to me. I had the best time as a Scout in summer 2004 taking Cycling merit badge. I was on Sports staff in high school and college from 2005 – 2010 and they are still the fondest memories of my life.



*Sports Building, June 2000
Photo by Peter Collinge*



Sports in action!

Latest MSAA Meeting Minutes By Tim

Meeting notes were edited to fit available space – Kendall & Tim

Annual Beaver Weekend Meeting: June 1, 2024

The MSAA held the 2024 Annual Meeting at the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle at Massawepie. There were ~20 members present. Chair Jon Northrup presided over the meeting.

The minutes from the 2023 Annual meeting were recapped by Secretary Tim Smith. The Treasurer's Report was given by Peter Collinge. As of 5/24/24, the balance in our account is \$4,825 and there are 103 paid members. He reported that he has received several membership renewals this weekend. He also reported that since January 1, 2023, the MSAA has received checks totaling \$75,000 from a MSAA member from Connecticut. There was a brief discussion regarding ordering new MSAA logoed hats/shirts. It was noted that with the 75th Anniversary of Massawepie in 2027 that we wait.

Jon Northrup reported that more than 1,500 youth and adults experienced the magic of Massawepie in 2023. He thanked the many alumni that volunteered countless hours before, during and after Camp.

The proposed slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for election for 2024-2025 was presented: Chair – Mary Beth Boyle, Vice Chair – Jacob R. Emery, Treasurer – William Boyle and Secretary – Tim Smith. Members-at-Large: Peter Collinge, Don DeClerck, Christielee Geiger, Mike Knittel, David Lippitt, Mark Pulvino and Kendall Smith. Jon asked for any nominations from the floor and there none. Jon Northrup made a motion, seconded by Brendan Flaherty, to accept the slate as presented. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of those present.



Jon Northrup presented the 2024 Donor Option which is to support updating and improvements to the Shower Houses.

Matt Thurston, 2024 Camp/Reservation Director reported that there are a few staff positions still available. He is expecting more than 1,500 youth in Camp this summer. He reported that there 15 CITs from 2023 that are returning on Staff this year. He also asked Alumni to consider volunteering to be at Camp for weekends this year to allow all the staff to have a full day off.

Jon Northrup was recognized and thanked for his continued commitment and leadership. He noted not only the number of volunteers but the depth of their experience and commitment. We are the beneficiary of their time, talent and treasure.

Executive Committee Meeting: October 17, 2024

Attending was Mary Beth Boyle (Chair), Peter Collinge, Jacob Emery, Mike Knittel, David Lippitt, Mark Pulvino, Kendall Smith, Tim Smith and Matt Thurston. Bill Boyle, Don DeClerck, and Christielee Geiger were unable to attend.

The minutes from the April 25th meeting were accepted as presented. Mary Beth Boyle said the MSAA account balance as of September 30th is \$5,089 and as of October 17th there are 90 paid members. It was noted that the current balance is higher than we normally carry (usually around \$2,000). There was a discussion about possibly transferring money to the Square Foot Endowment fund or the donor option. Further discussion was tabled to the next meeting. Phil Bartels, an alumni donor from Connecticut has donated over \$100,000 this year for projects at Camp. Phil was presented with a BSA Second Century Society award in September 2024. This is a national recognition for donations of more than \$25,000.

Matt Thurston gave the Summer 2024 update. There were more than 1,550 scouts in Camp and Scouts and Leaders had good comments about Camp and their experience. The 2025 donor option was discussed. It was decided that we would support the Sports area. There will be a Winter Alumni gathering and plans will be announced soon.

David Lippitt said that the consultants will be making recommendations about capital changes in Camp, including a new Dining Hall. The project will require 4-5 years to complete, if approved by the Council Board.

Executive Committee Meeting: November 21, 2024

Attending was Mary Beth Boyle (Chair), Peter Collinge, Jacob Emery, Mike Knittel, David Lippitt, Mark Pulvino, Kendall Smith, Tim Smith, and Matt Thurston. Bill Boyle, Don DeClerck, and Christielee Geiger were unable to attend.

Mary Beth presented a very nice handwritten thank you card for Phil Bartels and all EC members signed it. Matt Thurston led an extended discussion regarding future Donor Option projects. (1) Private COED changing facilities at the waterfront, and (2) construction of a comfortable cabin in the Junior staff site for 21+ year old staff to provide supervision.

There were discussions on the Fall 2024 newsletter and the December alumni social event. She proposed a summer 2025 event at Camp in late July/early August at Mountaineer. There was a brief discussion regarding a MSAA 25th Anniversary celebration in Rochester in late Fall/early Winter. Research is underway and will be discussed at next meeting.

There were brief discussions regarding: accepting new "members" on the Alumni Facebook page, and ordering new logoed alumni "swag" – more discussion at next meeting.



Scout Executive Stephen Hoitt presents Phil Bartels with the BSA Second Century Society award, Sept 2024

BEAVER WEEKEND 2024



THANK YOU to ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

"Spring"

A bursting into greenness;
 A waking as from sleep;
 A twitter and a warble
 That make the pulses leap:
 A watching, as in childhood,
 For the flowers that, one by one,
 Open their golden petals
 To woo the fitful sun.
 A gust, a flash, a gurgle,
 A wish to shout and sing,
 As, filled with hope and gladness,
 We hail the vernal Spring.

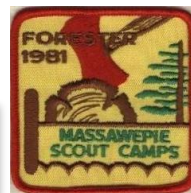
Henry Gardiner Adams



~~ SAVE THE DATE! ~~

Spring Beaver Weekend May 30 – June 1, 2025

Calling all MSAA members, family, and friends! **Spring Beaver Weekend** is our largest and most important work weekend. Meals and accommodations are provided. For more info, or to volunteer for or suggest a project, contact Ben Geiger, Property Superintendent, at (518) 359-3900 or ben.geiger@scouting.org.



Pink Lady Slippers in bloom!



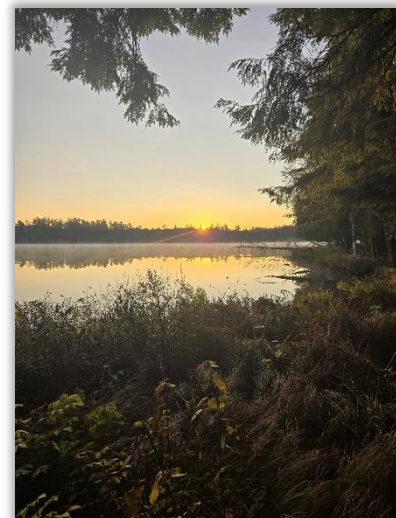
Member News By Bill

As of September 30, the Alumni Association has 90 paid members, a little under our long-time goal of having 100+ members. Please encourage a friend to join – let's try to pass 110 members!

New members since the Spring newsletter:

- **Tom Meyering**, from Crown Point NY, who served on staff from 1975-1982.
- **Joshua Steiner**, from Florida, who served on staff from 2018-2024.
- **Joe Petrella**, from Rochester, who joined as a "Friend of the MSAA."

Other Alumni Association members who served on the 2024 Camp Pioneer Staff were: Matt Thurston as Camp Director, Rob Byers as Shooting Sports Director, Matt Denney as Business Manager, Jacob Emery as Assistant Camp Director, Cordell Reynolds as Trek Director, Jon Northrup as Business Manager (filling in, for one week), Bill Boyle as Business Manager (filling in, for one week), and of course Ben Geiger as Property Superintendent. Scott Bischooping, Mary Beth Boyle, Kathy Elliott, Brendan Flaherty, Matt Hossenlopp, Kendall Smith, Joe Petrella, and Peter Collinge helped at various times as volunteers during the summer. Sorry if we missed anyone!



October sunrise over Catamount Pond
Photo by Rob Byers

Autumn Fires

*In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!*

*Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.*

*Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!*

Robert Louis Stevenson

News for Camp Pioneer 2025 By Matt Thurston

The 2025 camp leadership team is exploring exciting new program developments, including the implementation of a "Living History" program integrated with Barkeater, to be called the "Ha De Ron Dah Village", and new STEM programs as well.

We will also be developing at least two new small campsites for the 2025 season to accommodate the higher quantity of smaller units who attend camp. Along with this effort, we have the need to name some new sites in camp and would like to collect some input on names from our alumni. You can follow the QR code above to the right for a list of name prospects; all of which are names of Adirondack lakes, in line with the Pioneer campsite naming scheme.



[Take a photo of the QR link above with your smartphone or click on this hyperlink!](#)



Christmas in July party for the staff!

News from Mountaineer Family Camp

By Matt & Michelle Trost (Summer Caretakers)

This past summer we had many former staff members and campers come to Camp Mountaineer during the Family Camp season. Even as far away as Kentucky and Arizona. It was great to hear the stories as the campers reminisced of Mountaineer.

We have switched reservation platforms from Black Pug to Hip Camp. This new platform allows us to have much more flexibility and makes the camp better available for everyone to enjoy. We had a camper find us as she made her way from British Columbia to Boston. [Click this link to check it out and plan for summer 2025!](#)

We offer four enclosed cabins of varying creature comforts (one with full plumbing!), five dedicated RV sites with 30A and water hookups on gravel pads, four campsites for tent camping or small RVs, one large pavilion, and three tent camping sites. Plus, two shower houses, laundry, a recreation center, a private beach, and so much more!

The old trading post, now Skylight Lodge, has been updated with new pine boards and looks beautiful ([see photos to the right](#)). The next project is the old main office building. The front of the building will be the new family camp office, trading post and museum. The back half will be transformed into a small apartment that can be used as a caretaker's lodge or rentable space. This past summer, we found an old chair from the Childwold Hotel we hope to display as well as some memorabilia from years past.

It was a great summer at Mountaineer, and we hope you will be able to join us next year! Our camping season runs from July 5 through August 9, 2025.



OCTOBER ODYSSEY & FALL BEAVER WEEKEND

Massawepie recently saw an influx as people gathered on Columbus Day weekend to volunteer for Fall Beaver Weekend and Scouts came in to complete the October Odyssey scavenger hunt.

Volunteers painted, stained, trimmed trees, split firewood, prepared spots for upcoming winter weather, continued the refurbishment of older buildings, among many other things. As part of the scavenger hunt, Scouts visited the shotgun range, completed the 5-mile hike, and ventured off to Lake Placid. Fun was had by all, work or play!

If you haven't had the chance to visit Massawepie in the off-season, it is highly recommended. Weekends such as this one are a lot of fun and a great way to see camp in a different way. Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated so these are a good time to give back to camp as well. Hope to see you there next year! – *Mary Beth*



~~ SAVE the DATES! ~~
 Fri 10/10 – Mon 10/13, 2025

