

# BEAVER TALES

## SPRING 2025

Photos via Facebook & Others

Newsletter of the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association

## BEAVER WEEKEND AT MASSAWEPIE

Beaver Weekend – the largest work weekend to add improvements, continue maintenance, and ready camp for a summer of scouts – is soon approaching, **Friday May 30 – Sunday June 1**. There are many projects to be completed; see page 3 for a full list.

The MSAA is proud of its large volunteer turnout for Beaver Weekend in previous years. It is a true testament to our Association's commitment to Massawepie's operations and improvements. This weekend is a wonderful opportunity to reminisce and recollect with others who consider Massawepie to be their happy place.

There is no skill-set too large or too small required to come and help camp out. Projects range from heavy machine operating, carpentry, plumbing, and electrical to painting, mowing, and setting up tents. All MSAA members, any volunteers, and friends of Massawepie are encouraged to attend!

## MSAA ANNUAL MEETING

The Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's 2025 Annual Meeting will be held during Beaver Weekend at Massawepie at 7:30PM, Saturday May 31, in the Loren Hakes Campfire Circle, unless weather requires the meeting be held in the Pioneer Dining Hall.

According to our Rules of Operation, elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee. Reports on 2024-25 activities will be given, along with plans for our future. Comments from members on how to continue developing MSAA's membership and role at Camp will be solicited.

As is tradition, the meeting will conclude with a group photo of those in attendance. There will be time for continued socialization or a return to work on projects. Come be a part of the camaraderie and participate in our Association's decision-making!

## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Camp

Hard to believe it's already that time of year! Camp is just around the corner and there are signs everywhere as staff and volunteers work to prepare for another summer season. This summer is especially exciting as it marks the 25th Anniversary of the reopening of Camp Pioneer. As we get closer to the start there is still much to be done, and we need all hands-on deck. Coming up in May there are two work weekends, Pre Skills and Skills, and then the first weekend of June is of course Beaver Weekend which has a variety of projects planned for all ranges of age and talents.

To all who have come to one of these weekends in the past or have volunteered at camp in another capacity thank you, thank you for your time and service. It is through the love and support of our volunteers that Massawepie has grown to what it is today. It is through this network Massawepie can celebrate the milestones it has.

If you are planning to volunteer this coming season know you are appreciated and making a difference. Know you are paving the way for Massawepie and all its future milestones. – **Mary Beth**



*See Page 7 for a tribute to George Varga, longtime MSAA member & newsletter editor*

*Providing Spirit, Service and Support since 2000!*

With true hearts, faithful work, and kindness toward all, you cannot fail to obtain every reasonable goal you may desire.

**Verplank Colvin**

## 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**  
Seneca Waterways Council  
Attn: MSAA  
2320 Brighton-Henrietta TL Rd  
Rochester, NY 14623

**MSAA E-mail Address**  
[MassawepieAlumni@senecawaterways.org](mailto:MassawepieAlumni@senecawaterways.org)

**MSAA Web Site**  
[MassStaffAlumni.org](http://MassStaffAlumni.org)



# 2025-2026 Nominees for the MSAA Executive Committee

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

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Mary Beth Boyle, for Chair</b>                | <b>for Member-at-Large:</b>   |
| <b>Jacob Emery, for Vice-Chair</b>               | <b>Christielee Geiger</b>     |
| <b>Jon Northrup, for Past-Chair</b>              | <b>Mike Knittel</b>           |
| <b>Tim Smith, for Secretary</b>                  | <b>David Lippitt</b>          |
| <b>Bill Boyle, for Treasurer</b>                 | <b>Mark Pulvino</b>           |
| <b>Peter Collinge, for Historian &amp; M-a-L</b> | <b>*Opening(s) Available*</b> |
| <b>Kendall Smith, for BT Ed. &amp; M-a-L</b>     |                               |

**Go Green! Save MSAA (YOUR) \$\$\$**  
 60+ members now get Beaver Tales via e-mail. But we still spent \$170 on postage in 2024. Many groups no longer mail paper copies of newsletters. We don't want to abandon paper for those who want or need it, but it's faster & cheaper to send newsletters by e-mail. If you still receive a mailed paper copy but wouldn't mind getting yours in PDF format by e-mail, please let us know by emailing [MassawepieAlumni@senecawaterways.org](mailto:MassawepieAlumni@senecawaterways.org)

## Membership Renewals By Bill

It's that time of year for Alumni Association membership renewals. Please check the enclosed Membership Renewal Form to see whether it says "Expiring June 2025" (or earlier). If so, please renew NOW – before you start binge-watching your favorite show and forget! (Bonus: you'll avoid repeated reminders to renew.) Just send \$15 (or \$25 for 2 years) to the return address shown on the form (or see below). Even better, make a donation of \$60 or more total to the Massawepie Square Foot Fund and/or the Sports Activities Upgrade project (see separate article) and get a "free" 1-year membership renewal. Either way will keep your membership up-to-date, help Massawepie, and keep you receiving this fine newsletter during 2025 and beyond!

Reminder: Please make checks out to Seneca Waterways Council, BSA (NOT Massawepie Staff Alumni Association). That also makes any donations (beyond dues) potentially tax-deductible, if you itemize. Send all alumni renewals and donations to the Seneca Waterways Council office at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, NY 14623.

All members, whether renewing or not this year, are encouraged to return the form if you wish to make a donation or need to make any updates of your address, phone number, e-mail or other information. And please ask a friend to join!

## 2024 MSAA Financial Report By Bill

In 2024, the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association's income was again somewhat more than our expenses, largely due to fairly minimal expenses this year. We currently have a healthy balance in our account, which will be used to benefit camp via future projects or endowment. Some of the surplus has already been used in 2025 to buy a square yard in recognition of longtime Trading Post Manager George Varga, who passed away early this year. Beyond normal association dues, which support projects like the recognitions mentioned below, Alumni Association members donated an additional \$2,150 for endowment and \$38,060 toward updating the camper shower houses at camp. Thanks to a generous alumni member, we also raised an additional \$110,000 for other projects around camp.

We again recognized more senior camp staffers by presenting 4 ringer shirts and 1 fleece blanket to those who in 2024 had completed three or five summers, respectively, on staff. We ended 2024 with a good inventory of blankets and shirts, having ordered more shirts in early 2024 using some of the surplus funds in our account. We again helped to pay staff uniform insignia costs for the CITs, to help support those future staffers, using insignia left over from 2023. We will restock our inventory to again support CITs this year.

Here's a summary of our 2024 financial year overall:

Account balance 12/31/23	\$ 4,913
Dues & income	+\$ 915
Postage expenses	-\$ 170
Sq.Ft. member donations	+\$ 2,150
To Council Sq. Ft. Fund	-\$ 2,150 (as an endowment for Massawepie)
Shower house donations	+\$ 38,060
Other camp project donations	+\$ 110,000
To council from camp	-\$ 148,060 (donations from the two lines above)
Memorabilia sales & don.	+\$ 5
Staff recognition expenses	-\$ 399 (3rd year t-shirts)
Website renewal	-\$ 136
	=====
Account balance 12/31/24	\$ 5,128 (after rounding)



**Bill striking the balance sheets and the bowling lanes!**

As usual, many thanks to all who paid dues or donated to help support Massawepie!

## Spring 2025 Work Weekends & Project List By Rosemary & Ben

Massawepie could not be made ready for our Scouts, their Leaders, and our Summer Camp Staff without the help of many VOLUNTEERS - like **you**. Most of the work needed to keep Massawepie a premier camping experience is done by volunteers. Please consider joining us for one or more weekends! (Bonus: free accommodations and meals in appreciation of your help!) If transportation is holding you back, let us know – we will try to arrange a ride with another volunteer. Tools, equipment, and materials are supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own tools.



### Communicate with the Work Weekend Chair

Rosemary Varga is the Work Weekend Chair. If you would like to be a project leader, work on a particular project, or reserve a particular cabin, PLEASE CONTACT ROSEMARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

If you have questions, or just need to let Rosemary know you will be attending one or more weekends (and when you will arrive), please contact her at least a couple of weeks ahead of time. Contact Rosemary via email: [herselfreigns@gmail.com](mailto:herselfreigns@gmail.com) or phone: (585) 233-7841

### Pre-Skills Weekend, May 9-11 and Skills Weekend, May 16-18

During Skills Weekends we start to get Massawepie ready for Beaver Weekend and summer use. We turn on water and electrical systems, check hiking trails and do advance planning and preparation for Beaver Weekend projects and more. All volunteers are needed and welcome to join us, regardless of your skill level. Check in at the Shop when you arrive to get sleeping and crew assignments, plus meal location and times. Meals will be provided from Thursday dinner through Saturday dinner during Pre-Skills Weekend, and Friday breakfast through Saturday dinner Skills Weekend. A light “to-go” breakfast will be provided on Sunday morning each weekend.

### Beaver Weekend, May 30 – June 1

Beaver Weekend is when we do the major work in preparing Camp for the arrival of Scouts. Campsites and the waterfront are set up, trails are cleared, special projects are completed, and a long list of maintenance items are addressed (see Proposed Projects below). A large group of volunteers is needed to complete all the work, so please consider joining us. Meals will be provided Thursday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

**Timing:** We are very flexible in accommodating any time you have available to help. Early arrivals are welcome; some will start arriving as early as Tuesday May 27. If you arrive Tuesday through Thursday, check in at the Shop. If you arrive Friday or Saturday, check in at Pioneer Dining Hall. If you arrive earlier or stay later, please plan your own meal arrangements accordingly.

**Sleeping Accommodations:** The Camp provides sleeping accommodations by way of a tent with cot and mattress or a pre-reserved cabin (if available), or you can bring your own tent or sleep in your car.

**If you are unable to attend Skills or Beaver Weekend(s) but would still like to lend a hand in preparing Camp for the summer, please contact Rosemary Varga, Work Weekend Chair, to schedule and reserve a time to come and volunteer.**

### Proposed Projects

Set up campsites and program areas for summer use	Place platforms in campsites and attach tent frames
Assess and repair mountain and BMX bikes	Get Mountaineer Family camp ready for the summer
Build new campsite pavilions in Camp Pioneer	Always-needed trail work
Electrical upgrades to Camp	Turn on water for summer use
Waterfront preparation	Cabin repairs and upgrades as needed
Preventative maintenance on Camp vehicles	Help Kendall with chimney and masonry repairs 😊

## ***NEW! Pre-Camp Week***

**June 23-27, 2025**

Since there is no National Camp School this year at Massawepie, join us to help finish projects and prepare camp before Scouts and Staff arrive! Meals will be provided June 23-27 out of Gannett Lodge. **Be sure to RSVP!**



Up to 4 feet of snow on the Maintenance Shop roof!

# 2025 MSA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes By Tim

## January 23, 2025

Attending: Mary Beth (Chair), Bill, Peter, Jacob, Mike, David, Jon, Mark, Kendall, Tim and Matt (Staff Advisor). Don and Christielee were unable to attend.

Mary Beth reported that George Varga, long time MSA member and Newsletter Editor, passed on January 13, 2025. His Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, February 8 at the St. Boniface School.

The minutes from the 11/21/24 meeting were approved. Bill Boyle reported that the MSA balance as of 12/31/24 was \$5,127.91 with a paid membership of 97. Mary Beth presented the thank you card for Phil Bartels and everyone signed it. Peter Collinge made a motion, seconded by all, to use \$350 to purchase a Massawepie Square Yard in George's memory/honor. Matt Thurston reported that the 2025 Massawepie Arctic Challenge was a success. There were 68 participants and 12 staff, all of whom were MSA members.

Kendall led a discussion regarding the Spring 2025 Newsletter. Mary Beth led a discussion regarding establishing an "On-Line" Apparel store for the MSA. There are many advantages, and the Camp has used this vendor with success. There is an initial setup fee of \$150. More to follow.

Mary Beth introduced the idea of having an Alumni event in early August at camp. More discussion is needed. David Lippitt reported that November 29, 2025 is open at the Irondequoit Country Club to hold a 25th MSA anniversary event. He also reported that 2027 will be the 75th Anniversary at Massawepie. We will begin planning, in concert with the Council, for the celebration.

## March 6, 2025

Attending: Mary Beth (Chair), Bill, Peter, Jacob, Tyge Kelley (guest), David, Jon, Mark, Kendall, Tim and Matt (Staff Advisor). Don, Christielee and Mike were unable to attend.

Kathy Elliott (past Chair) introduced the new Scout Executive/CEO, Jonathan Widmark. He is joining us from the Cape Fear Council in Wilmington, NC where he was the Scout Executive/CEO.

The minutes from the 1/23/2025 meeting were approved. Kendall reminded everyone about the assignments for the Spring Newsletter as well as the deadline. Mary Beth reported on the online apparel shop. She had samples of materials.

Matt reported preparations for the Summer 2025 season at Massawepie are well underway. They have chosen a food service vendor and continue hiring staff. There are still openings. He is proposing using funds from the donor option to purchase new soccer goals. After a discussion, the MSA agreed to "guarantee" \$3,000 so that materials can be purchased and received in time for camp to begin.

The idea of a Summer 2025 Campmasters was discussed. Volunteers would be at Camp to help with changeover on the weekend. There was a brief discussion about designing a collector/one time patch for 2025. The idea was approved for a design to be made.

Planning is underway for the MSA 25th Anniversary celebration on November 29 at the Irondequoit Country Club. Planning has also begun, in concert with the Council, for the Massawepie 75th anniversary in 2027.

## April 8, 2025

Attending: Mary Beth (Chair), Bill, Peter, Jacob, Mike, David, Mark, Kendall, Matt (Staff Advisor), and Jonathan Widmark (SWC Scout Executive). Don, Christielee, Jon and Tim were unable to attend.

The minutes from the 3/6/2025 meeting were approved. Kendall reviewed the Spring 2025 Beaver Tales newsletter. Mary Beth reported that the online apparel store will have 100% cotton and 50/50 blend for t-shirts and long sleeve shirts. There will also be polos, quarter zip, fleece, Henley shirts and jackets that are embroidered, hats and a YETI-style tumbler.

Matt reported that staffing for the summer remains an issue. He is looking for a Health Director, an Aquatics Director and multiple junior staff positions. He needs volunteers for weeks 2 & 3, the biggest weeks. Two new campsites have been named Big Moose and Tear of the Clouds.

It was reported that the opening day of Massawepie in 1952 was June 28. Jonathan Widmark said that the Council needs strong communication (press, traditional and digital) regarding the 75th Anniversary to promote participation by the entire community. The event at Camp will be driven by the Alumni Association. Mike mentioned that the Council Historical Society is creating a 75th Anniversary book. There was a discussion regarding the Association name. It has been suggested that the word Staff be removed since anyone associated with Massawepie can be a member. More discussion to follow at the next meeting and the Annual meeting.

It has been suggested that we use "Black Pug" for members and the public to pay for membership and make donations. Black Pug is an online reservation system utilized by the Seneca Waterways Council.

The slate of 2025-2026 Officers/Members-at-Large for the newsletter and Annual Meeting was finalized.

## Member Notes By Bill

As of December 31, the Alumni Association had 97 paid members, a little under our long-time goal of having 100+ members. Please encourage a friend to join – let's try to get past 110 members!

New members since the Fall newsletter:

- John Eckardt, from Murfreesboro TN, who served on staff from 1954-1956.

In addition to serving as officers in the MSAA, Mary Beth Boyle and Bill Boyle serve Massawepie as the caretakers for Wellington Lodge. Twice a year the Lodge receives a “deep cleaning” from the caretakers, including rug shampooing, kitchen cabinet cleanouts, and even window washing (inside and outside), a very cold task in November.



## 2025 Donor Option – Sports Area By Kendall

This year's MSAA Donor Option will fund improvements to the Sports Area at Camp Pioneer. Created for the reopening of Camp Pioneer in 2000, the Sports Area is a consistent favorite for Scouts and offers a wide variety of sporting games, and mountain / BMX bikes with a BMX course.

A key priority for the 2025 camp program is the purchase of two “mobile” soccer goal frame kits. The four existing wood-framed goals are well beyond their lifespan. There is no program need for two soccer fields, so one field with a pair of goals that are weather-resistant, lighter to move, and with new netting will be a big upgrade.

Additional donor goals for the Sports Area include a new concrete pad for athletics, sporting equipment, and bicycle parts / helmets.

In January, members of the MSAA gathered at L&M Lanes for fellowship and fun. *The bowling moves were good, but not as hot as the spicy wings that were ordered!*



## Cumulative Alumni Donations Pass \$474,000!

By Bill

During its twenty-five years (from 2000-2024,) Massawepie Staff Alumni Association members have donated a total of \$403,111 toward various significant projects at Massawepie, and a total of \$71,130 for the Square Foot Endowment to fund future maintenance and equipment for Massawepie. That's an amazing total of \$474,241 that has been given by Alumni Association members to keep Massawepie available for the Scouts of the future. Congratulations and thank you!

## MSAA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Apparel By Mary Beth

We are excited to announce that in honor of the MSAA's 25th Anniversary, a number of commemorative apparel items are available for sale! The items are only available through our online storefront with Recognition Experts and can be shipped directly to your home or picked up from the Recognition Experts shop in Rochester (116 Winton Road). The items range from long and short sleeve t-shirts to jackets and hats. To celebrate the alumni anniversary, the items will all have our alumni logo with a 25 on the beaver's paddle. The store will only be open until our 25th Anniversary Event in November 2025, so make sure you check the store out and order your items before it is too late!

<https://recognitionexperts.com/category/177/massawepie-staff-alumni>

## MSAA 2025 Calendar

For MSAA event status updates, go to [www.MassStaffAlumni.org](http://www.MassStaffAlumni.org)

May 9-11 / 16-18	<b>Pre-Skills / Skills Weekends</b> – All levels of “skill” are needed!
May 26-29	<b>Pre-Beaver Days</b> – Come early to help prepare for the weekend projects!
May 30 – June 1	<b>Beaver Weekend</b> – ALL Alumni are encouraged to attend!
May 31	<b>MSAA Annual Meeting</b> – 7:30pm, Massawepie
June 23-27	<b>Pre-Camp Week</b> – New this year! Come help with final tasks & touches!
June 29 – Aug 16	<b>Staff Week &amp; Camping Weeks</b> – Massawepie
Oct 10-13	<b>MSC October Odyssey</b> – Scouting event at Massawepie!
Oct 10-13	<b>Fall Beaver Weekend</b> – Work on projects or help with the Odyssey!
Oct 17-19	<b>Fall Skills Weekend</b> – Skilled or not, come prepare camp for winter rest!

## Calling for Massawepie Summer Campmasters By Mary Beth

Looking for a way to give back to our beloved camp? Consider being a Summer Campmaster! Campmasters are needed at Massawepie starting the weekend of July 4th through the first weekend in August. Campmasters are needed primarily on Saturdays to cover the Main Office to assist troops who are doing an early check-in but there are some Sunday tasks Campmasters can help with as well. This service allows our hard-working summer staff some true time off and a chance to actually recharge for the next week! On top of being able to enjoy time at camp and give back, Campmaster volunteers are provided with room and board. If you are interested in being a Campmaster this summer please reach out to Mary Beth at [MaryBeth.Boyle22@gmail.com](mailto:MaryBeth.Boyle22@gmail.com).

## Massawepie Arctic Challenge By Mary Beth

Over this past Martin Luther King Jr. weekend troops gathered to participate in the annual Massawepie Arctic Challenge. This year the weather really came through as Massawepie was hit hard with snowfall making camp a true winter wonderland. Scouts were able to take full advantage of it as they had options to go snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, sledding, and winter hiking. Troops also enjoyed round robin activities including an outdoor relay race, maple candy making, paracord crafting, a winter leave no trace activity, riding fat tire bikes, and making a 'no bake' granola snack. On Saturday evening troops came together for a vespers service and were then entertained by an evening campfire with songs and skits. Word on the street is it was a must-see event!

Overall, the weekend was filled with fun and troops were thrilled they had had the opportunity to participate in the fully booked weekend. If you haven't visited camp in the winter, it is highly recommended. Reach out to find out how you can be a part of next year's MAC weekend!



## Save the Date - Saturday Evening, November 29, 2025 By David

This year (2025) is the 25th Anniversary of the forming of the MSAA and the 25th Anniversary of reopening Camp Pioneer. We will celebrate one or both (which ever you prefer) on the evening of **Saturday, November 29th** (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) with an event at Irondequoit Country Club in Rochester, New York. *Please save the date and stay tuned for more details.*

## New Council Scout Executive – Jonathan Widmark By David

Jonathan Widmark became the Seneca Waterways Council's new Scout Executive as of March 1, 2025. Jonathan comes from the Cape Fear Council in Wilmington, North Carolina where he was that Council's Scout Executive since 2015. Jonathan began his Scouting career in 2003 as a District Executive with the Pine Tree Council in Portland, Maine. He then held the positions of Senior District Executive, Development Director, Senior Development Director and Director of Field Service with the Narragansett Council in Providence, Rhode Island.



Jonathan is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. He, and his wife Kimberly, have two children - Zachary (a Life Scout) and Claire. During his interviews Jonathan made clear that Massawepie's 75th anniversary in 2027 needed to be a major celebration of the camp, the Council and Scouting. The MSAA can't agree more! Welcome Jonathan!!

# Massawepie's Multi-talented Man: George Varga By Peter

Massawepie lost a stalwart helper when George Varga died on January 13. But while many of us think of George's efforts for the Trading Post, his connection with Massawepie began long before that.

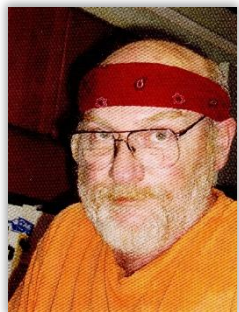
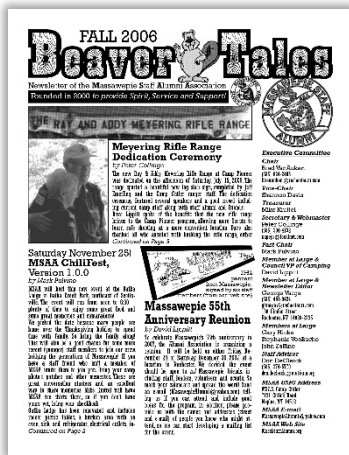
George got started as a Scouting volunteer helping his wife, Rosemary, with her Cub Scout den in Pack 200 at St. Boniface Church in Rochester. He eventually became Cubmaster. As his sons got older, George transitioned to become a leader in Troop 200, where he served as Scoutmaster for almost 20 years starting in the mid-1980s. During that time, George became familiar with Massawepie as his troop attended Massawepie each year, first at Camp Mountaineer and then starting in 2000 at Pioneer. He and Rosemary made additional Massawepie connections as sons Joe, Paul, and Shawn all served on Mountaineer staffs.

George began volunteering to use his professional graphic design skills for Scouting early on, first for the pack and troop, then for Eagle District, and eventually for the Council and Massawepie. In 1994 he created a map of Camp Mountaineer that was much improved over the previous versions, and kept that updated through 1999. He also designed patches and logos for camp, including the logo for the Massawepie Staff Alumni Association. After joining the Alumni Association in 2002, he became editor of our newsletter in 2004 and continued through 2019. George rechristened the newsletter as *Beaver Tales*, and took it from a simple text-based format into a more modern-looking format with plenty of pictures and graphics.

While still Scoutmaster, George began volunteering at camp in various ways. Then starting in 2005 he became the Trading Post Manager. In addition to managing the Trading Post during the summer, he spent many hours during the rest of the year finding the best deals for ordering supplies. George vastly increased the variety of Trading Post merchandise, which resulted in happy campers and sharply increased sales.

He continued as Trading Post Manager through 2015, then became the overall Retail Manager working behind the scenes, and in the Trading Post when needed. Even in the last years when he was unable to be at camp for the summer, he continued to help with merchandise ordering behind the scenes as he could.

***Massawepie, and its campers and staff, will miss George Varga in many ways: his friendly presence, his ideas, and his efforts!***



# Stephen Hoitt Promotion By David

Former Seneca Waterways Council Scout Executive Stephen Hoitt was selected as Council Service Territory (CST) 10 Director effective November 1, 2024. CST 10 supports the 21 Councils with headquarters in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. During his 14 plus years as Seneca Waterways Scout Executive Stephen brought financial stability to the Council; led the successful fundraising, build out and move into the Council's current office; and was a great supporter of Massawepie. We wish him well in his new position (where he has to put up [again] with MSAA Executive Committee member David Lippitt, who is CST 10 Chair through May 2025).

# Alumni Association Online By Peter

Remember to check out your Alumni Association online:

- On Facebook, search for the group "Massawepie Staff Alumni Association," and join if you're not already a member.
- Visit the MSAA website at <http://massstaffalumni.org> to see current info, past staff photos, memorabilia and Camp history.
- If you have a staff photo or memory or historical item that isn't on the website, please contact [collinge@localnet.com](mailto:collinge@localnet.com) to share!
- I'd also love to get any good staff stories or anecdotes from your era, to potentially use in an upcoming history of Massawepie's first 75 years.



1960 Camp Voyageur staff neckerchief

## Camp Pioneer 2025 Update By Matt

Summer Camp is just a couple of months away, and it's a big change year at Massawepie. In 2025 we are starting pilot programs for two new program areas at camp including a STEM area, and an Adirondack living history village we'll be calling "Hah-De-Ron-Dah." Both will teach merit badges and run open programs throughout the week. All of the badges taught at STEM as well as the Golf merit badge taught at Sports will be brand new to camp this year, and Theater merit badge will be coming back for the first time in eight years.

This is also a big change year in terms of operations, with new processes being put in place for open program registration, the campsite booking process, medical forms, camp staff management of patrol cooking, a new food service, and to our hours-tracking and youth staff management processes. Thanks to several hardworking volunteers and generous donors, we will also be finishing the campsite pavilion project by getting a pavilion in every campsite.

We will also be renaming Cranberry B this year and building a brand-new campsite. Based on the votes of the alumni the winning names for these sites will be "Big Moose" and "Tear of the Clouds." As always at this time of year, staffing is the number one focus of our administrative team in preparation for camp right now. While we are continuing to onboard lots of new people, the team is finding it particularly difficult this year to fill some of our key staff positions, most importantly, the positions of Senior Commissioner, Trailblazers Director, and Sports Director as of the time of writing this article.

Please refer any candidates or interested parties for these or other camp jobs to me ([matthew.thurston@scouting.org](mailto:matthew.thurston@scouting.org)) and reach out if you are interested and available to come help out during the summer. As usual we can use the most help from our alumni and volunteers during weeks 2-3 of camp; July 13-26.



### Key 2025 Staff Members

\* MSAA member

#### Professional Staff:

- Property Superintendent: Ben Geiger\*
- Reservation Director: Matt Thurston\*
- Trek Director/Assistant Ranger: Cordell Reynolds\*

#### Seasonal Staff:

- Program Director: Tyge Kelley
- Asst. Camp Director: Jacob Emery\*
- Health Director: Brenna Woods
- Aquatics Director: Brian Baker
- Business Manager: Caryn Wright
- Barkeater/Hah-De-Ron-Dah Dir: Keegan Rhoades
- CIT Director: Alex McBeth
- Range & Target Activities Director: Rob Byers\*
- Shotgun Director: Chris Tsai
- Archery Director: Leora Blum
- Trading Post Manager: Matt Denney\*
- Handicraft Director: Jacob Spence
- Econ Director: Clayton Gomes
- Family Camp Directors: Matt & Michelle Trost\*

## Update on Family Camp at Mountaineer 2025

By Matt & Michelle Trost (Summer Caretakers)

Ben and his crew have been hard at work transforming the old Mountaineer Cabins into beautiful rental cabins for Mountaineer Family Camp. The pictures are from the old health lodge, now the renovated Whiteface lodge.

Family Camp at Mountaineer is open for rentals from July 3rd through August 9th this summer. You can use the QR code to link to the HipCamp registration page. We will have a renovated office space this year with a small trading post and historical section. We are looking forward to this summer and hope to see many of you there.



QR code link to HipCamp registration for Mountaineer Family Camp

