



The Pinewoods Post

◆ SPRING 2014 ◆

Tradition at Pinewoods Camp

This is an edited version of an article first published in the English sword dance newsletter Rattle Up My Boys in fall 2013.

In August 2013 my wife Stephanie and I came to Pinewoods from England to teach at two sessions run by CDSS. Steph was hired to teach clog and I was to teach North West morris, rapper and longsword. Having grown up as a North West morris dancer and spent the past decade dancing with any rapper team that would have me, my morris and rapper knowledge were up to scratch. However, I was apprehensive about teaching longsword as I only know two dances. Luckily, that's what I taught!

That said, I didn't let lack of experience, knowledge or ability affect my boldness. Bristling with faux-confidence and tales of winning the Sword Dance Union's Longsword tournament with the Newcastle Kingsmen, I taught the Kirkby Malzeard dance at English Dance Week and Grenoside at English & American Week, complete with captain. Some dancers were far more experienced than I; others thought sword dancing might actually be restful, and were a bit shocked at the pace. But the vigor of the dance styles and an emphasis on unusual style points kept interest high. Everyone persevered and did a fine job.

Pinewoods camp is a wonder. To my knowledge, there are no residential courses in the UK focused primarily on English traditional dance, and I found it poignant to have to travel across

the pond to find English traditions taught in this way. Why is this so? One argument suggests that there aren't enough people in England who value their own traditional culture, so there's little market for it. Another says that America's bigger population simply makes getting 140 people together to learn English dance statistically more likely.

(continued on pg. 3)



Tom Besford leads a parade of morris dancers through camp, August 2013.

Photo by Stewart Dean, imagovita.org, © 2013

Forest Management Plan at Pinewoods

Did you know that Pinewoods now has a Forest Management Plan and will be enrolled in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Forest Stewardship Program? Part of practicing good stewardship means thinking long term about protecting our 28 acres of woodland forest. The current 10 year plan, recently prepared by professional forester Phil Benjamin, describes in detail the composition and age of eight separate "forest stands" at camp and recommends various actions to "further enhance the vigor and aesthetics of our forest".



The plan states that our forest health appears to be good, although pockets have suffered from periodic gypsy moth and winter moth defoliations. Beech bark scale has a small presence and warrants watching. As many of you are aware, the trees on the west side of Long Pond have suffered from periodic storm damage, especially after the 2013 blizzard.

Our resource management goals include the promotion of biological diversity, the prevention of forest health problems, the maintenance of soil and water quality, and the protection of rare species and wetland areas. Towards those ends, we will be promoting a mixture of vigorous trees of different ages and species through limited "liberation and improvement thinning". Thinning out less desirable trees gives remaining trees enough space, water and light to thrive and promotes a healthy distribution of trees at a variety of growth stages.

(continued on pg. 3)

In This Issue

*Tradition at Pinewoods Camp ◆ Forest Management Plan at Pinewoods ◆ Greetings Pinewoods Friends ◆ PCI Board Transitions
Notes from the Director ◆ Road Improvements ◆ Community Dance ◆ Spring Work Weekends ◆ Cadwallader Estate Bequest*

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Check Our Website

For news updates, additional information,
photos, past issues of the Post, log on to our website:
www.pinewoods.org

Note:

This spring edition of the Pinewoods Post is being sent out via e-mail to most of our readers, although paper copies will be sent via regular (USPS) mail to those who have no e-mail address or requested paper when they replied to our recent survey. Our autumn edition will be sent out via regular mail.

Greetings, Pinewoods Friends: Jan Elliott

I am honored to assume the position of Pinewoods Post editor, in support of this place we all so deeply cherish. Heartfelt thanks go to my immediate predecessor, Susan St. Germain, and to those who came before her. Their dedication and expertise, along with the work of Executive Director Judy Savage and layout designer Kim Becker, have created a compact, informative and well-produced vehicle for news, reviews, and updates from camp. As your current steward, I will do my best to serve this community with a newsletter that keeps us informed of relevant issues while revisiting important events in our past.

I'll see you again as future issues come to press. Thank you, PCI, for your faith in me as editor!◆

Notes from the Director

There have been several big changes at camp this year. There are two new cabins located behind Hit and Miss, across the way from Boatman. Each one sleeps two adults and has a small porch overlooking Round Pond through the trees. Campers submitted 27 suggestions for cabin names on our website. Nominations included old and new dances from the Scottish, English and American dance traditions. The Board of Directors voted in March, and by a large majority selected **Rory O'More and Money Musk (Monymusk)**. It was felt that they represented a tradition currently under-represented at camp: American contra dance. However, in consideration of the fact that the cabins are situated close to the Highlands, both dances have Scottish counterparts (hence the alternate spelling).

We will be phasing out Cottey House as a camper cabin at the request of our Program Providers (aka User Groups). Cottey House, while beloved by a few long time campers, was not an ideal location for either new campers or for campers who wanted to be more centrally located. We have also expanded and renovated the Amsterdam shower house, next to Newbiggin. It will now have a wrap-around porch, three toilets and four showers. Tony Baker, our Head of Grounds, has also repaired the doors in Headington and Grenoside, built beds and night stands for the new cabins, a new deck in front of Square 1-4 and a new landing for the left entranceway to C#. We also have new fans in Ampleforth and C#Minor thanks to the generosity of our July 4th campers.

Many of last year's crew will be returning to work at camp this summer, so you will once again see lots of familiar faces. Laura Keeler returns as Head Cook; Ruth Howe, and Meghan Murray will be Assistant Cooks; Isabella Diemand will be one of our Kitchen Aides; Christopher Jacoby will be our Dishwasher; Emma Van Scoy will be our Grounds Chief, and Greg Skidmore, Sam Howe, Rowan Lupton will be on the Grounds crew. We are delighted to welcome newcomers Catherine Knott as Office Manager and Jacob Henderson as Pot-Washer. We also welcome newcomers Jocelyn Cozzo, Logan Wells, and Shannon Palmer Paton as our new Kitchen Aides.

Sophie has kept camp secure in the off-season but keeps wondering where you all have gone. She, and I, will be very happy to welcome you back to Pinewoods!◆

Judy Savage



*The new Showerhouse.
Photo by Tony Baker*



*The Rory O'More cabin.
Photo by Tony Baker*

Forest Management Plan at Pinewoods

continued from page 1

Unless we want to change our name to **Beechwoods**, we also need to address the growing number of beech seedlings that could someday wipe out other trees. Favoring better-formed white pines and mixed oaks will ensure greater diversity overall. Encouraging the growth of smaller trees will also enable our forest to better cope with periodic and unpredictable stresses such as insect attacks and windstorms and make it less susceptible to a single devastating health threat.

The variety of habitats at Pinewoods is important for resident and migrating birds as well as other animals. These include a vernal pool, forested wetlands, snags and den trees, as well as blocks of unbroken forest. Thinning and creating additional small gaps in the forest will protect and enhance such habitats in order to continue to support a varied wildlife population.

The forest also provides an effective natural buffer that holds soil in place and protects the purity of our water. Under-story vegetation, along with trees and organic material on the ground, can reduce the impact of falling rain and ensure that soil won't be carried into our ponds and waterways.

A big threat to our biodiversity is the spread of invasive non-native plants such as European Buckthorn, Asiatic Bittersweet, and Japanese Knotweed. We plan to practice vigilance and early intervention, through the manual labor of dedicated crew and volunteers throughout the year.

Dancing in the woods to the sound of music, tree peepers and wood frogs, under a canopy of towering white pines, surrounded by an abundance of birdsong and butterflies is a unique and magical experience worth protecting for future generations. The plans we commit to today can, and will, make that a reality.◆

Judy Savage

PCI Board Transitions

The PCI Board elected three new members at our annual meeting last fall: At-large members Bill Cronin of Littleton, MA and Chuck Gordon from Boston, MA and CDSS rep Gene Murrow from New York. We also bid a grateful farewell to three members: CDSS rep Allen Dodson, former Treasure, CDSS rep Sarah Mead, and At-Large member Susan St. Germain, former editor of the Pinewoods Post. Thank you all! ◆

Warren Anderson

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Road improvements along Clark Road, Long Pond Road, and Halfway Pond Road will start soon, and may impact your trip to camp this summer.

- 1) There will be a new traffic roundabout at the intersection of Clark Road and Long Pond Road.
- 2) A traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Long Pond Road and Halfway Pond Road.
- 3) The intersection at Bourne Road and Halfway Pond Road will be redesigned and include a new stop sign. There will also be a number of "traffic calming median strips" painted along Long Pond Road.

Unfortunately, we expect the construction to be ongoing this summer. We don't want you to be surprised, especially if you are arriving after dark. Forewarned is forearmed.

Tradition at Pinewoods

continued from page 1

I would also argue that the culture itself is different in England than in the US. One contrast is that in the US most 'ritual' dancing enthusiasts tend to do a bit of everything. In the UK, people tend to be morris or longsword or clog dancers, and it's rare to meet someone who competently performs and associates across a wide variety of traditions. Most often people join a local team and stick with it. Also, in the US prior to the 1970s, individual dance teams simply weren't as prevalent as they are today. Indeed, for many years people only learned the dances through Pinewoods classes or similar courses. This is very much along the old English Folk Dance Society model of the 1920s, and very different to the way traditional dance is passed on in the UK.

The lasting thought which I brought home was that I'd been immersed in a tradition of English dance at Pinewoods that is as old as some rapper traditions in the UK. As CDSS nears its 100th anniversary, Pinewoods' centennial is not far behind; in some ways its structure and ethos has changed little in the past 100 years. So, ironically, I had been invited to the US as a workshop tutor who would be able to teach English traditions as directly from the source as possible, and yet having returned, I feel it was actually Steph and myself who were the main beneficiaries, having had the opportunity to participate in this wonderful and inspiring uninterrupted tradition. ◆

Tom Besford

Community Dance

Pinewoods Camp will host a Community Dance and Concert on Sunday, June 8, for our Six Ponds neighbors. Festivities start at 8:00 PM in the Camphouse with light refreshments, and will continue at the Ampleforth dance pavilion until 10:30 PM. No dancing experience is required. Newcomers are welcome!

In addition to this special event in June, we invite our neighbors to join our Sunday evening dances throughout the summer. If you are a neighbor and are curious about the laughter, bagpipes, or the steady rhythmic sounds of clogging that you hear during the summer, come join us and experience what the joy is all about. ◆





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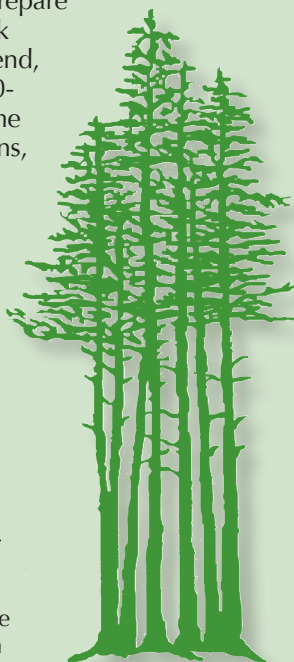
Spring Work Weekends

Spend time with old friends and make new friends while working and contributing your loving labor to prepare Pinewoods for the new season. Two Spring Work Weekends are scheduled: Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26, and the following weekend, May 30-June 1. Folks new to camp are welcome. Daytime activities include opening the Camphouse, cabins, and kitchen, raking the grounds, painting, and making sure we're ready to welcome campers in June. Evening activities depend on the talent and initiative of volunteers attending each weekend; they may include dancing, jamming, games, or just schmoozing. The Memorial Day Weekend is almost full, but we still have room at the second Work Weekend. Sign up now, by going to our website:

<http://www.pinewoods.org/camp-sessions/work-weekends/> or by calling 508-224-4858.

Correction

We regret the omission of Paul Sawyer's name in the list of Work Weekend volunteers in our last edition of the Pinewoods Post. Paul has attended many Work Weekends, and his help has been invaluable!



Cadwallader Estate Bequest

Pinewoods Camp was the recent beneficiary of a generous gift from the estate of A. L. Cadwallader. Alan Cadwallader, resident of Hartsdale N.Y and long time camper at CDSS Folk Music Week, died on March 31, 2012, at the age of 77. Part of the magic of Pinewoods lies in the commitment of folks like Al, whose generosity enables us to preserve and protect camp so that others can experience the joy of it in the future.

For more information about how you, too, can be an important part of that future, go to: <http://www.pinewoods.org/support-pinewoods/planned-giving/>

