



The Pinewoods Post

◆ SPRING 2009 ◆

Pinewoods Camp Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

On March 11, 2009, Pinewoods Camp was unanimously nominated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Members of the State Review Board commented on the camp's "unique" and "ephemeral" qualities, acknowledging that it was "worthy of protection and recognition" for its long history as a camp in the Town of Plymouth. Pinewoods will now have an extra layer of protection against possible future development in the area, as well as the deserved recognition for being a historically significant resource.

The National Register of Historic Places is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. A listing in the National Register provides recognition of a community's important historic resources and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the property.

There are many people who deserve our thanks for making this possible. Six years ago Kathy Terzi made a compelling case for considering it to the camp's Director, Judy Savage. Jacquie Fehon generously donated many hours of her time to do the research and find out exactly what Pinewoods would have to do to be nominated. She helped to educate the Board of Directors and campers as to what it would mean. Jacquie also helped us find Eric Dray, an architectural historian and preservation consultant who prepared the initial nomination for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Lee Hartman, Director of Planning and Development with the Town of Plymouth, was instrumental in helping Pinewoods Camp access the state funding necessary for us to hire Eric as our consultant. Eric Dray did a terrific job in preparing and presenting the nomination materials.

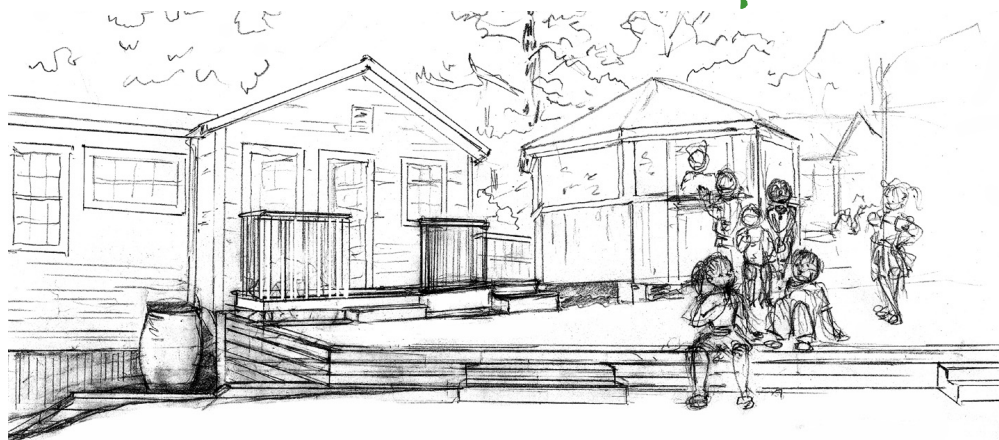
In Massachusetts, properties nominated to the National Register are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places. There are no limitations, public visitation requirements or restrictive covenants for private properties with either the state or the federal register. PCI may do anything with the property that we wish unless state or federal funds, permits or licensing are used. Being listed on the National Register makes Pinewoods eligible for various state and federal grants including Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding; however, PCI will need to carefully consider any of these options before pursuing them because of the potential restrictions they may place on any future building projects.

Look for a new commemorative plaque at Pinewoods this summer. It will be small, and somewhat inconspicuous, but very special.◆

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New View for the Camp Store



The Camp Store will have a new "orientation" this summer. In order to help reduce the amount of soil erosion in that area, as well as create a better gathering and socializing area for campers, we are turning it around and doing some additional landscaping. The serving window and access door will now face out towards Ampleforth and Royton. A small retaining wall will create a level area in front of the window, and with several new benches will provide additional seating for folks to sit and chat while they eat their ice cream bars. New plantings in the Square will better define paths and walkways, as well as help to keep the naturally sandy soil in place. Deborah Kruskal, landscape designer and member of our Board of Directors, created the design after much input and enthusiastic support from the other members of the Pinewoods Board of Directors.◆

At printing time for this issue of the Post, news arrived of the peaceful passing of Christine Helwig, a beloved, well-respected member of the Pinewoods family and a key participant in the setting-up of Pinewoods Camp, Inc. during the mid-1970s. Look for a detailed tribute to Christine in the next issue of the Pinewoods Post.

Check our website

Don't forget to look at our website for this year's summer schedule as well as thank you notes from last summer's scholarship recipients and a current listing of our board members.

User groups

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o Folk Arts Center
42 W. Foster St. • Melrose, MA 02176
Susan Haines • Secretary • sdhaines@earthlink.org
www.rscdsboston.org

Country Dance Society, Boston Centre

P.M.B. 282, 1770 Mass Ave. • Cambridge, MA 02140
Mark Jones • President • president@cds-boston.org
781.662.6710 • www.cds-boston.org

Country Dance and Song Society

132 Main St., PO Box 338
Haydenville, MA 01039-0338
Steve Howe • Assistant Director of Programs • camp@cdss.org
413.268.7426 X102 • www.cdss.org

Folk Arts Center of New England

42 W. Foster St. • Melrose, MA 02176
Marcie Van Cleave • Executive Director • fac@facone.org
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Pinewoods Post

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From the Director

We are gearing up for the season, and are excited about our crew for 2009. Gillian Stewart will be returning as our Head Cook. Moira Flanagan as Second Cook will join Gillian along with returning kitchen aides Sonja Boet-Whitaker, Emma Schneider, and Hannah Lindner-Finlay. Jonah Sidman and Margaret Youngberg will be returning as Dishwasher and Grounds Crew. Several new crew and volunteers will make this year's group even more terrific.

The new memorial bench for Marianne Taylor will allow you to contemplate a peaceful Round Pond through the trees near Pinecones. It blends in beautifully with the landscape and is a perfect way to remember Marianne and her morning song.

The other big changes this summer will be a new Ampleforth, the new entrance to the Camp Store and the improved landscaping in The Square. In spite of these changes, though, Pinewoods will continue to feel much the same as it did 90 years ago when Helen Storrow led her Girl Scout Leaders in their first English country dances. Our listing on the National Register of Historic Places gives weight to a reality many of us already know from experience. Returning to camp each summer demonstrates, over and over again, the profound importance of place in our lives. Protecting and preserving the property, as well as preserving the traditions that infuse it with its magic, remains the top priority of the PCI Board of Directors. They are charged with a unique form of stewardship inherited from Helen Storrow, Richard and Lily Conant, May Gadd, and finally Ricky and Gerda Conant. They are doing a terrific job on your behalf. No decision is made without careful thought, discussion and consideration of its impact on how it might affect the way camp "feels". In case you don't know who these tireless and dedicated folks are, check their photo in this edition of the Post.

Finally I want to mention that this summer will mark Tony Baker's 30th year at camp. Some of you, if you have been lucky, have met Tony Baker, our dedicated Head of Grounds. We have relied on Tony and his sound judgment for all our major repairs and projects since 1979. Originally hired by Gerda Conant, Tony has seen many managers come and go. Tony is the guy who made all those beds, night stands, Dining Hall tables and benches, and more recently those beautiful deck chairs that sit out on the Camphouse porch. Tony is also the guy who makes sure our drinking water system meets all safety requirements and our docks get both taken in and stored and then taken out and set up properly each season. At one time or another Tony has had an integral role in developing, repairing or creating our water, electrical, and septic systems and is the definitive go-to guy for all three when problems arise. A lifelong Plymouth resident, Tony only works one day a week when camp is in session, which is why you may not have had the opportunity to meet him. But he has been a major influence in making Pinewoods what it is today. So if you do happen to catch him this summer, he might appreciate a word of thanks or a nod of appreciation for all that hard work.



*Tony Baker,
Head of Grounds*

Pinewoods Board



1st row left to right Deborah Kruskal, Sarah Pilzer, Jackie Algon, Warren Anderson, Claude Epstein, Barbara Finney, Allen Dodson, Liz Levin, and Ken Launie

2nd row left to right Stephanie Smith, David Conant, Mark Ward, Henry Chapin, Susan St. Germain, Bob Dupre, Greg Meisner (Vice-President), Lois Post, Cecily Pilzer, Ruth Reiner (President), and Judy Savage

Note: Bob Dupre's and Cecily Pilzer's terms ended Nov. 2008. Photo by Ken Launie

Community Dance

Pinewoods will once again be hosting a community dance for our Six Ponds neighbors, who can often hear our festivities but rarely get a chance to participate in them. Last year over two dozen or so of our immediate neighbors joined our crew for a lovely dance in C#. Our very talented crew band provided music. Henry Chapin and Marcie Van Cleave led us in a variety of dances, including English country, American contras and squares, and international folk dancing. Both experienced dancers and those new to traditional dance joined hearts and hands to celebrate Pinewoods' longstanding presence in this very special community. This year's dance will also celebrate our recent nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 7 to 10 PM. All dances will be taught, and beginners are especially welcome. The exact location at camp will depend on the weather, so please call 508-224-4858 to let us know if you are planning on attending. ◆



Happy 34th Birthday, Family Week!

Family Week wasn't the beginning of children at Pinewoods--staff children were always welcome. In 1947, when I went as a 5 year old with my family (my father, John Hodgkin, was the CDS treasurer), the magic of dancing and music in the piney woods seeped under my skin. I returned as the lifeguard when I was a teenager, and taught the dance and music classes for staff children.

Years later, as a teacher in New York, I led family dances with Phil Merrill as the musician. This coincided with CDSS National Director Genny Shimer's concern that the revival that had recently brought many new young people to dance at Pinewoods Camp was endangered as they married and started their families. She remembered previous generations of dancers disappearing in this fashion.

Gradually it occurred to a bunch of us--dance teachers, dancers, and musicians, some with children and some without (including Genny, Jim and Marney Morrison, Marshall Barron, Joan Carr, Rob and Valerie Citkowitz, Phil Merrill, and myself)--that there was a need for a Family Camp at Pinewoods, where these young couples already dancing could continue to be involved. CDSS launched the first Family Week, directed by Genny, in the summer of 1975. Jim, Joan, Marshall, Phil and I were on the staff to help "in getting this new venture underway," as Genny's invitational letter said to me.

The program has remained remarkably similar throughout the years, and has been successfully transplanted to other family dance and music camps. One tradition that has continued to this day started the first year. To entice the children to go off to their cabins at 8:30, Jonathan Morse became the first Pied Piper, leading a procession of parents and children with their flashlights. The "Pied Piper song" was Ally Bally, which Jack Langstaff had taught to Jonathan so that he could share it at Family Week.

Marney and Jim Morrison envisioned the first "Last Afternoon Parade" when they co-directed Family Week in 1981.

They modeled it after the homegrown 4th of July parade that Marney had grown up with. June and John Rowlands brought their infant daughter, Heather, to Family Week in 1983 and initiated "Heave the Welly," a contest that still follows the parade and which has migrated to other Pinewoods weeks as well.

Platt Arnold started the tradition of handing down girls' dancing dresses in 1985. When Sarah and Maggie outgrew the dresses, Platt donated them to the fundraising auction. Charlene Morse bought one for her daughter, Erica. Our daughters, Jocelyn and Dawn, treasured a soft pink "princess" dress with sparkly "diamond" buttons that had been Lily Kruskal's. In 1995, Gail Hyde bought both the "princess" dress and the orange checked dress in the auction for her daughter, Leah. Gail began the tradition of embroidering the names of all the girls who had danced in each special dancing dress. Gary and Rowena Roodman's 10 year old granddaughter, Emma, now has

the orange checked dress. After dancing in the dress at Family Week this summer, Emma will donate it to the auction passing it on to a younger dancer, whose name will then join the others.

Although Family Week was under-enrolled for its first few years, and budget considerations nearly led to its demise, CDSS board members were committed to it, even at a loss, to build the future of the Society through families and young people. Their vision was justified: this summer, 34 years after the first Family Week, Marney is co-directing the Family Week program with her son, Owen, and a staff that includes Family Week graduates Erica and Naomi Morse. I look forward to bringing my granddaughter, Eliza, to Family Week. I hope Family Week will thrive long into the future, so our children's children's children will be lucky enough to learn to dance and sing and play music in the pavilions between the ponds. ◆

Meg Lippert



Celebrating the 15th birthday of Family Week in 1990 at the evening family gathering in the Camphouse: Asher Miller, Dawn Lippert, Elvie Miller and Jocelyn Lippert with Meg Lippert.

Ampleforth

While every off-season at Pinewoods has lots of activity as we execute projects to both maintain and improve camp and its facilities, this year is particularly exciting for us. That's because the major project this year is the rebuilding of the Ampleforth pavilion, one of our cornerstone projects of the Legacy Campaign. The construction, taking place between October 2008 and June 2009, is the culmination of a three-year effort in the planning, design and building of a pavilion that preserves the style and feeling of the original while increasing the potential use and utility of the space.

Ampleforth is one of the original buildings in camp. It can be seen in numerous old photos and on a number of postcards, going back to the time Pinewoods was a Girl Scout camp. It was the dining hall back then, with the meals being cooked in what is now the Program Center. It has a special place in our history and holds many a fond memory in people's hearts. But time and the elements were taking their toll. Six years ago we had engineers inspect the major buildings in camp to give us an assessment on the condition of Pinewoods' facilities. In their assessment, Ampleforth was the only building specifically cited as needing serious attention.

The new building is exactly the same size as the old one, and on the exact same "footprint". But the roofline is higher - high enough to accommodate any type of dancing without having roof beams being in the way. The building should be brighter, both from the higher roofline and from the addition of windows on the north side and in the northwest corner. The flooring will be of a higher quality for dancing, and the floor construction was also designed specifically with dancing in mind. There are plans for utility and storage space for projects classes during family weeks. Finally, the space will be tied to the Camphouse with a connecting deck.

Also involved in this project we plan a major restoration and recovery of the landscape inside The Square. This slope has suffered from erosion, excessive water runoff and neglect for many years and we plan a major environmental overhaul to recover it.

In what has been a harsh New England winter, all that existed in February, on the site, was the concrete foundation for the new building, and a lot of dirt! But even in this state, the potential of the pavilion, and the sense of new energy being awakened could be felt. From this energy will come the new, rich memories of dances to be discovered, songs to inspire and friendships to be made, filling the hearts and minds of generations now and yet to come. ◆

Francis Attanasio



Ampleforth in April, well on its way to completion

Do we really have to leave now?

You hear the same announcement every year the day before your session ends: "Check out time is 10:00 AM". Most of you honor that request, even though all of you have a hard time leaving. Some of you can't quite seem to believe that your time at camp is really over. So you plan an extra dip in the pond, or an extra trip to say goodbye (again) to your new or old friends. As a former camper, I can sympathize with your reluctance to go. As Camp Manager, my loyalties lie more with our hard working crew. Time is very short between sessions, and they have much to do to prepare camp for the next group. Even if you always have had a dip in the pond after 10AM, I'm asking you to think, long and hard, before you consider doing

it again this summer. It really does take a whole community of caring folks to make this place work like magic, and we really do need everyone's co-operation. Resist the temptation to ignore our plea, and think about the essential part you play in supporting and sustaining the Pinewoods community. Please be gone from camp by 10 AM. ◆

Judy Savage



Annual Appeal

We have had a terrific response to our 2009 Annual Appeal. We have raised \$30,000 to date, and more is still coming in. Your ongoing support, in any amount, is what enables us to keep Pinewoods in good repair, as well as plan for much needed upgrades to aging facilities. If you haven't made your contribution yet, keep in mind that donations to the Annual Appeal will be happily accepted all summer long. Many employers will match an employee's gift, so check to see if yours has a matching gift program. Your support means everything to us! ◆



The Pinewoods Post

◆ SPRING 2009 ◆

Pinewoods Camp Inc. • 80 Cornish Field Road
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Spring Work Weekends

Join us this spring at Pinewoods and enjoy ladyslippers in bloom while getting a behind the scene peek at camp in the off-season. Work weekends are filled with camaraderie, community, lively conversation, and good spirit. In exchange for raking leaves, hanging curtains, cleaning windows, and lifting docks, you will have comfortable accommodations, plenty of great food, and the serenity of days well spent with good people. Bring your instruments and dancing shoes and be the first to enjoy the magic of music and dance under the stars this summer. Spring work weekends are May 22-25 and June 5-7. Register by going online at www.pinewoods.org, email Judy at manager@pinewoods.org, or call 508-224-4858.

Wish List

Pinewoods has a long tradition of accepting camper donations of items in good working condition. Please check ahead however before you bring any items not on this list. Upholstered furniture doesn't do well here (the mice like it far too much) so limit furniture contributions to sturdy wooden pieces.

- Curtains (we will send dimensions)
- Plastic hangers (yes we still need more)
- Small lamps and lampshades
- Small kayaks
- Wooden dressers and bureaus (in reasonably good condition)
- Small wooden tables
- Pillows and pillow covers

If you have a garden and would like to bring some of its abundance to share at camp this summer, we would welcome it. Please check ahead with the kitchen however, so they know what might be coming and can plan accordingly.