



Your Legacy Dollars At Work!

“What are you PCI folks doing with all that Legacy Campaign money?” is a question we hear frequently from people we encounter who’ve donated to the Legacy Campaign.

A reasonable question, and one that we two, as the new Pinewoods Camp Inc. (PCI) Treasurer and the long-standing Facilities Chair, are delighted to answer. We’ve done lots of wonderful things with your generous gifts — but we still have more to do! Here’s a quick recap.

Most of the Legacy funds were earmarked for specific facility needs around camp. You may remember that the first one — replacement of C# Minor — presented itself to us almost as soon as the campaign began, when a large tree fell onto the roof and many of the supporting beams buckled under the impact. Some of the Legacy Campaign funds were designated for such contingencies, and came in very handy not only to repair this damage, but to expand the size of the new pavilion to fulfill a long-standing user group’s desire for a larger “second” pavilion.

The only major building identified as being in need of structural repair or replacement was Ampleforth, according to the assessment of a structural engineer several years ago. In late 2008/early 2009 that building was completely replaced. The new, more structurally sound Ampleforth has the same footprint but a higher ceiling, which makes the building more useful for display dancers and provides more light for anyone using the pavilion. A particularly pleasing aspect of the new facility is the back wall -- postcards from the 1930s show meals being served in the “old Ampleforth” with a row of windows at the rear wall,



Sketch by Warren Anderson of the proposed new Changing Rooms and Deck

and this feature has been incorporated into the new building. Remember how dank and dark the back of Ampleforth seemed? It’s much more inviting now. Together with the new pavilion, we have totally relandscaped the Square in an attempt to control the erosion that has affected this area for some time. There’s now a distinct path leading down to Ampleforth from the Square; there’s a new landscape design and gathering place around the Campstore; and there’s an extended and rebuilt area of decking around much of the Camphouse.

But there’s more. We’re in the process of replacing the old Changing Rooms adjacent to Long Pond. The history of these is sketchy, but they appear to have been at one time two separate buildings, later joined together. They are in poor repair, and consequently seldom used nowadays. As detailed in the last Post, we plan to replace them with a building which will be far more attractive as a place to change clothes before venturing into the water, but will also feature a deck on top where one can lounge, sunbathe when the weather permits, and enjoy expanded views of the pond.

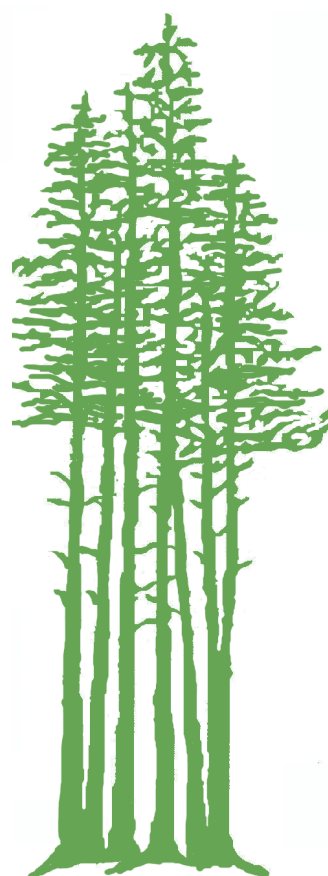
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Photo by Tony Baker of the new Ampleforth pavilion

Spring Work Weekends

Join us this spring at Pinewoods and help us rescue our runaway raft! 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 clearing paths, painting, opening the Camphouse, and getting our beachfront ready for summer activity, you will have comfortable accommodations, plenty of great food, and the serenity of days well spent working with good people. Bring your musical instruments and your dance-shoes, and be among the first people this season to enjoy the magic of music and dance under the stars. Spring work weekends are May 29 - 31 and June 4 - 6. Register by going on-line at www.pinewoods.org or email Judy at manager@pinewoods.org, or call 508-224-4858.



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Stay Connected

Pinewoods Camp now has a Facebook page with more than 484 fans. Please join the growing list! If you are a Facebook member and would like to join our group, go to <http://www.facebook.com> and look for the **group:** Pinewoods Camp. Check it frequently, as we are adding photos, videos, and listings of upcoming events.

User Groups

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o Folk Arts Center
42 W. Foster St. • Melrose, MA 02176
Lance Ramshaw • Secretary • secretary@rscdsboston.org
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P.O. Box 170987, Boston, MA 02116
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Country Dance and Song Society

132 Main St., P.O. Box 338
Haydenville, MA 01039-0338
Steve Howe • Assistant Director of Programs • camp@cdss.org
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Check Our Website

Our website offers many more photos of Pinewoods Camp, the 2010 Camp schedule and past editions of the Post. Log onto www.pinewoods.org.

Notes from the Director

Are you ready for Camp? It will be ready for you this summer, with new doors on many cabins, a new deck on the back (or is it the front?) of the Camphouse, and a new roof on Kendall Ghyll, on Mary and Dorothy, and on Corn Riggs. There will be more hand-crafted deck chairs, and a matching bench (with a back!) to join the other one next to Ampleforth. We have hired our summer crew and are delighted to have Gillian Stewart returning as our Head Cook. Corey Walters and Hannah Lindner-Finlay will be joining her as Second and Third Cooks. Kitchen Aides will be Nathaniel Jack, Clarissa Lyons, Julia Rosenfeld, and Rebecca Miller. Our Grounds Crew will be headed by Margaret Youngberg, working with Sierra Hineke and Emily Hartig. Our Dishwasher will be Stephen Thomforde and our Potwasher will be Elliot Isen. We are also welcoming back Lizzie MacLachlan as our Office Manager. Pinewoods Camp, and you, will be well taken-care-of by this hard-working and fun-loving group.

Right now, the ponds are about as high as they have ever been. The water in Long Pond is up to the second step, and is lapping at the underside of the Changing Room. With such high water in February, the raft floated off the cinder blocks where it was resting on the beach for the winter. We searched, high and low, for weeks... but there was no sign of it. We alerted our neighbors to be on the lookout, and luckily Sam and Caroline Chapin spotted it — all the way on the other side of Long Pond. Now that we know where it is, we are in need of a rescue party during Memorial Day Work Weekend to bring it back home.

Camp has a new dog, to take the place of the much-loved Brendan as the camp's security officer. She's Sophie — a very friendly black English Labrador Retriever. She has proven to be excellent at patrolling camp on her daily walks. All large sticks have been removed from the main paths and brought home to John Raymond! She has checked out both ponds and finds them eminently swimmable. She already knows how to sit and stay, but sometimes forgets in the excitement of meeting new people. She will be on a leash and accompanied by Judy, if you happen to meet her this summer. If you don't happen to be a dog-lover, then just keep walking, and so will we.

For weeks now, tree peepers have been calling to one another around camp. Mayflowers are in bloom along the path to the Dining Hall, and lady's slipper orchids have just begun to emerge from their winter sleep beneath blankets of pine-tree mulch. Hermit thrushes call out in the wood behind C# and hummingbirds have returned to their feeder located on my deck overlooking Round Pond. Memorial Day Weekend and the start of camp opening will be here before we know it!

I notice that many of our sessions are already fully subscribed, so I hope that means I'll be seeing many of you again this summer. If not, keep Pinewoods and its magic in your thoughts. You will be in ours. ◆

Judy Savage

Local Land Acquisition and Preservation

Part of the Legacy Campaign's commitment to preserving and protecting camp is to ensure that as much as possible of the surrounding environment is kept in permanent conservation. With that in mind, Pinewoods Camp recently made a commitment to donate \$20,000 to the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts to help them purchase 63 acres of upland with mixed pine forest.

The land is located on Long Pond Road, approximately halfway between the Clark Road exit off Route 3 and the turn onto Halfway Pond Road. It borders Long Pond on one side and is contiguous with 430 acres of existing conservation land. Acquisition of this parcel from the County will create a 500 acre block of prime conservation and recreation land within a mile's radius of camp.

The purchase price of the land was \$467,000 even though it was valued for more than twice that amount. Of that purchase price, \$250,000 comes from Town of Plymouth Community Preservation Act funding, \$117,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife, and \$100,000 from the Wildlands Trust and private donors — of which \$20,000 has been pledged by Pinewoods Camp Inc.

The sale has been approved by the Plymouth County Commissioners and the Town's Finance Committee, but it is still pending, until Town Meeting approval in May. Once approved, we can be confident that we are continuing to do all we can to keep our camp, and its surroundings, protected from development. Our goal is to keep Pinewoods Camp as much the same as it has always been, for as long as possible. ◆

Community Dance

Pinewoods Camp will once again be hosting a pre-season community concert and dance for our Six Ponds neighbors. For more than ninety years we have cultivated close ties with our neighbors and friends around the Six Ponds. When they hear music and singing coming from Pinewoods throughout the summer, people are often curious to know what's happening here. The laughter, the bagpipes, the steady rhythmic sounds of clogging — all can be very intriguing to the uninitiated. We try hard to be respectful of our neighbors, and, in turn, they are usually very supportive and appreciative of us. In order to keep the bonds between us strong, to satisfy some curiosity, and hopefully to encourage some singers and dancers, we invite neighbors to our Sunday night dances throughout the summer and to a special concert and dance in June.

This year, once again, Hank Chapin and Marcie Van Cleave will be our callers for the dance, happening on June 12th, and the talented fiddle player Peggy Conant and her band will provide the music, possibly joined by a newly-formed crew band.

Festivities start at 7:30 PM in the Camphouse with some light refreshments, and will continue at the Ampleforth dance pavilion until 10:00 PM. No dancing experience is required. We welcome and encourage all newcomers! ◆

Lost and Found

Did you know that we collect, on average, about a dozen large storage boxes of lost and found items every summer? They contain everything imaginable: brand new dance shoes, eyeglasses, notebooks, toys, towels, bathing suits and an endless assortment of clothing. The sheer volume each week never ceases to amaze us. Our Office Manager stores and catalogues everything, and makes a valiant attempt to return things to their rightful owners. The task can be challenging, since many items aren't missed (or found) until weeks after their owners return home, thus we aren't always sure which week to catalogue them under. Most common items lost/found: jewelry and keys left in nooks along cabin walls, dance shoes left in dance pavilions, towels left on the Camphouse deck, electronic chargers left in random sockets and underwear left in dresser drawers. Most notable: a pink tutu found at Cotter House, an entire clothing bag of fancy dresses behind a cabin door, wooden stilts, and an assortment of plastic flamingos. Most forgetful session: Campers Week. Least forgetful session: Scottish I & II.

We save everything from the previous season, through the winter, in the hope that it will be claimed. However, come the first week of June, we need to make room for the next season's collection. So, we sort through all of it, one more time. Towels go to the First Aid Room, flashlights to the grounds crew, dance shoes to a box of "spares" in the office, for camper loan. We have a clothing exchange for incoming crew who may need rainwear, jackets, and miscellaneous clothing items. The rest goes to the local Salvation Army in Plymouth. If something seems particularly valuable, we will set it aside in the office in the hope that it will still be claimed. We are ever-hopeful that campers will heed the plea to keep track of their belongings each week, to look around their cabins when packing, and check the lost and found before their departure. If, perchance, you happen to see one of our crewmembers wearing the favorite sweater that you thought was lost forever, we hope you'll understand how it got there, and appreciate how hard we tried to find its owner and return it. ◆

Your Legacy Dollars At Work! (cont.)

The major construction project, and the one generating the most excitement among PCI Board members, is the remodeling of the 1930s Dining Hall. We're in the process of refining the design of the new building before presenting the plans to the Town of Plymouth to obtain the appropriate permits, so the design is not yet finalized. However, it's safe to say that campers dining in the new facility won't notice too many changes in the part of the building — the seating area — most consider the "Dining Hall" (though we will repair the chimney and modernize the coffee/tea area). Most of the dining area will remain unchanged, simply slightly expanded with a new entrance. But behind the doors to the kitchen there will be change aplenty. We're increasing the size and renovating the kitchen to allow for a more efficient work flow for the kitchen staff, replacing equipment (incorporating the latest "green" technologies as much as we can), consolidating food storage, and providing an expanded crew space at the back of the building. As part of this project the Dining Hall bathrooms, loading area and recycling storage will be totally redone, and utility and telephone lines to the building will be buried. Again, we've gone back to photographs of this building as it was in the 1930s, to inspire our planning. We hope to clear some of the detritus that has grown up around it over the years and provide a facility more in harmony with its setting alongside Long Pond, while enabling the kitchen staff to handle the important job of providing wonderful food for campers more efficiently! Our current plan is to start this project immediately after camp ends in early autumn 2011, with construction/renovation completed before the 2012 camp season.

There are other plans too — renovating Pineneedles, Pinecones, and so on — that we'll be undertaking once the Dining Hall is done. In order to assure we have funds for projects such as these,

Camera Courtesy

When taking photos at Pinewoods please remember to consider other people whose images you might have included in your pictures. Be sure to ask, and obtain their permission, before you display photos which include them.



Photo by Tony Baker of the new C# Minor pavilion

the Board, and especially its Finance Committee, works with Jim Childress (a former PCI President) to ensure that funds are invested prudently so that they will be available when needed.

But camp is about far more than buildings; the physical landscape of Pinewoods has special meaning because of its relationship to the surrounding landscape, and because of the generations of campers who attend camp and come to love this place. The Legacy Campaign funds have enabled us to undertake new projects in these areas as well.

We see development pressures continuing to significantly affect the fragile region of landscape of which Pinewoods is a part, but becoming a camp version of a theme park in suburbia is *not* our vision! We prefer to help preserve the larger area around us and support other groups who feel the same way. As Judy Savage details elsewhere in this issue, we were recently approached by the Wildlands Trust to contribute funds to assist them in buying a piece of property east of camp, fronting on Route 3, and we were delighted to do so. This is just the latest chapter in a long relationship with the Wildlands Trust, the Six Ponds Association, the Nature Conservancy, and other like-minded groups that was begun and fostered by the Conant family, when they owned camp, and is continued today by PCI.

Perhaps our most exciting (and unusual) project is not about buildings or land, but an investment in a "reforestation" project — planting the seeds and nurturing the growth of the next generation of campers so that camp can become part of their lives in the way that it has become part of ours. The New Generation Initiative (NGI) is a youth scholarship program, administered in co-operation with our user groups, to provide full scholarships to camp sessions. PCI funds its share of the scholarships through your Legacy Campaign contributions, with the aim of fostering young people's interest, attention and involvement in camp and the purpose it serves a new generation... thus we expect that the "Pinewoods magic" will continue to grow. Of all the projects we've funded through the Legacy Campaign, this one may provide the greatest long-term benefit of all!

We hope this has given you an idea of what PCI has done, is doing, and plans to do, with your Legacy Campaign gifts. See us at camp this summer and we'll be happy to give you even more details. (Just look for us at "The Porch & Rail" when we're not dancing!) ◆

Allen Dodson - Treasurer
Francis Attanasio - Facilities Chair

Dinosaur Diary - The Old Days at Pinewoods Camp

(This is the first of an occasional series of articles for the Pinewoods Post newsletter about the old days at Pinewoods Camp and working there on crew, from board member, Long Pond summer neighbor, musician and family dance caller Henry Chapin. Other interested "dinosaurs" are invited to submit their own articles for this series.)

Hey, check it out — I'm now an old-timer at Pinewoods! Soon, my grandchildren will begin going there, to Family Camp! What happened? Last time I looked up, I was on crew. I never would have thought I would be in this position: a grandparent, a PCI board member, an old-timer. It seems like only yesterday that I had my first summer job, working for Mr. and Mrs. Conant. Peter Leibert was my boss, and I cleaned bathrooms, swept dance halls, got to drive the truck to town and spend ALL SUMMER at Pinewoods! So, as a self-appointed Dinosaur, let me begin a series of articles here in the Pinewoods Post about those old times.

In the pre-PCI days, the crew was much more informal. The camp property was solely owned by the Conants, gifted to them by Helen Storrow. We crew members — all males, of course — were hired on an eye-to-eye look and a handshake from Mr. Conant. The only females were the cooks, Mrs. Marshall and Eileen Malone. The crew, along with me, was Ricky Hider, who was huge, with a wonderful explosive laugh if you could get him going, Doug Smith, the randy and ironic refugee from Folk Music Week, who taught me everything I know about old-time music, and Tony Moretti, the teenage heart-throb, pot washer with the Scottish accent. We gladly did whatever needed to be done, and were paid a "bonus" at the end of the summer. I'm not sure I ever knew what the actual pay-rate was, but a bonus sounded pretty good and was included in the paycheck, which, if I remember correctly, was about \$350. for the summer.

Although I'm writing about working there in summers during the late '60s and early '70s, I was aware of Pinewoods since childhood. I was a lucky kid: a summer resident! I am from what one might call "the landed gentry" on the east side of Long Pond, due to my great grandfather, Howland Davis. He was called Bampum, was a pretty successful banker in New York, and was married to a Plymouth girl, Anna Shippen, who was known as Gar. In order to let her connect with her roots, he bought a house on Long Pond for her to make a summer home. In the ensuing years he purchased adjacent parcels, until he owned a nice portion of the southeast woods and shore. I sometimes think about Bampum (although I never knew him) and I thank him for settling in a place such as Long Pond. His children and grandchildren could run through woods barefoot, swim all day and mess around in boats. I'm sure many of his New York banking social circle chose summer places where it might have been mandatory to dress for dinner, take tennis lessons, and meet at the yacht club. Good for him to choose instead the sand and pine barrens of Long Pond, Plymouth, Massachusetts!

As soon as school was over in June, my mother Elizabeth "Betty" Steinway Chapin, who was later a founding board member of Pinewoods Camp, Inc., would pile us four boys — I am the oldest of four sons — into a Chevrolet station wagon we called the Bucket of Bolts, and would drive east on U.S. Route 6 all day until we arrived at our side of Long Pond. We remained there for the entire summer vacation. How good is that! Next door were my grandparents Ruth and Theodore Steinway, and on the south side a constantly-changing array of 2nd cousins named Davis. (One of

those cousins is Riker Davis, whom some may remember following in my footsteps working for Pinewoods in the '70s.) On the north side of my grandparents' is the Howe house, with the often-confused name Ashanty, where, among other cousin families, one with ten kids would appear each summer from North Carolina. This Howe family included one scrawny boy named Steve, who used to tag along with the gang of cousins swimming, boating, fishing, or sailing. Look what he's doing these days — he's in charge of seven of the summer sessions at Pinewoods!

Even though it wasn't until the end of the 1960s that I worked for the Conants, my memories of Pinewoods go back to my single-digit years in the '50s. You could hear Pinewoods sounds across the water, as you still can today. The clearest sound was the bagpipe during Scottish Week, and this sound transfixed my mother. When the drone began she would "shush" chatty children and cousins, and would drift to the edge of the hill to the pond, staring out in the direction of the magnetic sound which obviously struck a deep chord within her. I never saw her so entranced by any other music, and it made an impression on me that this was powerful stuff.

My grandfather, Theodore Steinway, was the somewhat reluctant president of Steinway & Sons Pianos in the 1940s and '50s, and he did not like the sounds of Pinewoods. What he really wanted to do was get to Long Pond, put on the most beat-up old clothes, including a dusty fedora, and then tinker in his wood shop in the basement of what is now my brother Sam's house. His idea of swimming was to float on his back, cigarette in one hand, feet pulled up close to his chest, toes just appearing on the surface of the water, peaceful calm on his face. He loved the cocktail hour on his brick terrace, in a direct line over water to C#. When the amplified dance music intruded on the enjoyment of his martini, he would curse, making an allusion to A.A. Milne, pronouncing the country dancers, "Those God-damned Tiddly-Pummers."

But my mother prevailed, and used her acquaintance with some CDS-types to visit Pinewoods. In those days, there were no children attending Camp, except the occasional staff "brat" such as Peter Cornelius. Rules were more liberal about visitors, mostly because it wasn't an issue. How well I remember, after supper one summer night, at about age 8, my mother throwing us kids into the Bucket of Bolts, driving over to Pinewoods and parking behind C# pavilion, near the Conant garage. She knew the Langstaffs from New York, where the parents and her parents were friends socially. She knew Ken Langstaff especially, and knew he had a kid brother Jack who hung out at Pinewoods. She also knew Nancy Nichols, a pond neighbor, who had begun playing amateur recorder and who would tell of being a "camper" at Pinewoods. We approached the dance floor, leaned against the railing and watched as a dance concluded. Nancy Nichols came over to greet us, as did an older, shorter woman. It was decided that I would have the next dance with this woman, and so I was summoned out onto the floor to dance with... May Gadd! She graciously pushed me through a simple English country dance, and, you know, it was actually kind of fun. I must have done O.K., and not stepped on any ankles or toes. Little did I know that I was HOOKED! But, since that is yet another article, then for sure this one needs to end here. ◆

Henry Chapin PCI Board Member