



# The Pinewoods Post

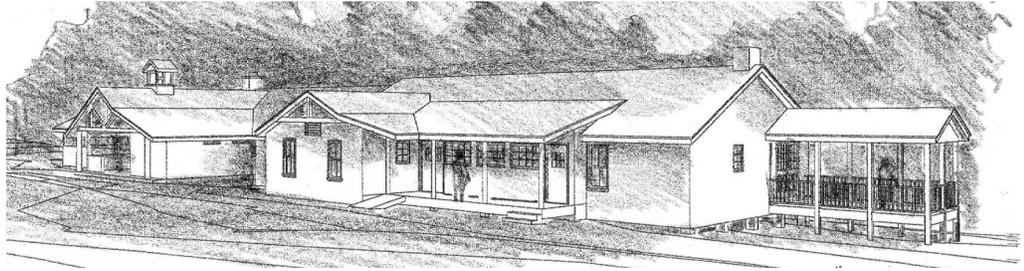
◆ AUTUMN 2010 ◆

## The Dish on the New Dining Hall

The Dining Hall, where campers gather for meals in view of Long Pond, was built in 1937 and is one of the oldest buildings in camp. Since that time, the dining area has remained remarkably intact, although over the years there have been several additions to the kitchen and, in 1991, two bathrooms were added.

As the capacity of camp has increased through construction of cabins in the Highlands, the workload of the kitchen staff has also increased, with changes in campers' expectations regarding the quality of food served at camp, with the incorporation of a vegetarian menu and with providing for the needs of campers with special diets. These concerns, plus the need to improve safety, to provide sufficient space for all kitchen tasks, to improve work efficiency and to provide energy-saving equipment, led Judy Savage and the PCI board to include renovation of the Dining Hall in the Legacy Campaign fundraising agenda. In 2008 the Camp Facilities Committee, including Warren Anderson, Francis Attanasio, Tony Baker, Deborah Kruskal, Ken Launie, Greg Meisner, Judy Savage and Mark Ward, began planning the replacement of the kitchen and improvements to the existing building.

Led by project manager Warren Anderson, members of the committee worked with Executive Director Judy Savage, Head of Grounds Tony Baker, current Head Cook Gillian Stewart, and former head cooks and kitchen staff, to identify the functional problems to be considered in the design of the



*Southwest View of Addition to Dining Hall. Architects sketch: Sterling Associates.*

new kitchen, including placement of equipment for the best possible safety and work-flow based on our menu program which now focuses on preparing food from fresh and raw ingredients. The redesign will increase the storage capacity of the kitchen, provide a receiving area for deliveries, and better organize facilities for the kitchen and grounds crew.

A major challenge of the project was to design a comprehensive addition to what is already one of the largest buildings in camp. The committee worked hard to minimize the size of the addition and to maintain the aesthetic character of camp architecture. In November 2009, the Board of Directors approved a design scheme based on a list of requirements prepared under the leadership of Warren Anderson and Deborah Kruskal.

To make way for this comprehensive project, some familiar features will change: small additions on the south end of the building will be removed, as will the existing camper bathrooms and several large pine trees. The proposed

addition will contain the new kitchen, which will have about the same-sized floor area as the existing kitchen, plus storage areas, an office for the head cook, a receiving area and truck dock, a social space with screen-enclosed porch, storage cubbies, bathroom for crew, work-yard for grounds-crew and recycling and vehicle storage.

Campers will see a more spacious dining room, because space behind the fireplace – currently occupied by the kitchen – will be used as a camper serving area containing the alternatives cart, the coffee and tea station, a buffet table and condiment and dish storage. Locating the serving area between the fireplace and the kitchen increases the floor space for additional tables so that the dining room can accommodate at least 145 diners under one roof during inclement weather. Campers will enter the new serving area through a covered vestibule located between the existing entry to the dining room and the current location of

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## The Scots at Pinewoods

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Boston Branch completed their 57th year at Pinewoods this past July. I, personally, have attended Scottish Sessions for about 25 of those years, have co-chaired the past two, and have greatly enjoyed the wonderful dancing, teaching, and camaraderie that can be found there. Although other Scottish country dance camps occur all over the world, the Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods are considered special, in large part for the beautiful scenery and unique atmosphere that Pinewoods Camp provides. This allure

has helped to make Scottish Sessions very popular, with attendees from all over the United States and several international visitors each year.

While the face of camp has changed over the years with major improvements made to the facilities (and the occasional new cabin popping up!), the dedication and spirit of the camp manager and crew has not changed. Judy Savage and her staff and volunteers are unfailingly polite, pleasant, and ready to pitch in and solve

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## Notes from the Director

The 2010 season started out with both ponds having the highest water in anyone's memory. This helped our trees and pond-side vegetation survive the summer's exceptionally humid, hot and dry weather. Our wayward raft was returned home, and its legs were restored and repaired. Record numbers of Work Weekend volunteers helped us with both the opening and the closing of camp. The new deck around the Camphouse proved to be a popular, greatly expanded gathering space for singing and jamming. There were 21 New Generation Initiative Scholarships awarded, enabling many deserving, under-30-year-old campers to come to camp who otherwise would not have been able to afford it.

For me, smitten as I was with my new pup Sophie, there was also my need to get her acclimated and accepted at camp. I wanted to make sure that she was on her best behavior during the summer as "camp security officer", so that she could continue to be good company for me through the quiet fall and winter. An unexpected bonus for me was discovering how many folks at camp loved dogs, and this provided endless opportunities to chat and get to know many of you better. I particularly enjoyed being able to introduce Sophie to the children at camp. Youngsters initially reticent about dogs would hang back the first few days; by the end of the week they were feeding her carrots and gently rubbing her belly. Sophie proved to be consistently sweet tempered, patient and, thankfully, unfazed by bagpipes. She proved to be a good icebreaker for new folks, young and old. Thank you all for your patience with her, and with me, as she became socialized into being the new camp dog.

One of the best experiences I have each summer is working with the Pinewoods crew. There is a rich tradition being created anew every year: former crew return as campers, older teens who had formerly attended family camp now become crew, and new folks join us at the urging and recommendation of friends who currently are or have been on crew. Over the course of a season with many different kinds of programs, I watch with delight as many of the crew members become turned on by music and dance traditions that had previously been unknown to them. Since we all hope that our current crew will someday return as campers, your encouragement as dance leaders and musicians is invaluable. Few camps have the same access to such talent and dedication. "Earl", the hurricane that wasn't during American Week, provided us with an excellent example of just how quick-thinking and hardworking our crew could be. The hurricane passed us by, but, boy, were we ready and well-prepared!

Every summer has some surprises for me. This year, thanks to camper, Dr. Curtiss Hoffman, a professor of anthropology at Bridgewater State College, I learned that we had Native American artifacts throughout camp. During Early Music Week, in August, Curtiss found a number of scraping



*Native American artifacts found at Pinewoods in August 2010. Photo taken by Tony Baker.*

stones and other common primitive tools. Those "early campers" of hundreds of years ago probably recognized the magic of these woods and ponds. Now, the job of preserving and protecting it has passed into our hands. Thanks to your ongoing and generous support we recently helped The Wildlands Trust of Southern Massachusetts to purchase more than 63 acres of land neighboring camp, thus ensuring that it remains in permanent conservation.

May your memories of summer at Pinewoods sustain you through the winter. We will be working hard during the off-season to keep camp in the best possible shape for next summer. See you then! ◆

*Judy Savage*

## User Groups

### **Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**

c/o Folk Arts Center  
10 Franklin St. • Stoneham, MA 02180-1862  
Lance Ramshaw • Secretary • secretary@rscdsboston.org  
www.rscdsboston.org

### **Country Dance Society, Boston Centre**

P.O. Box 170987, Boston, MA 02117  
Judy Erickson • President • president@cds-boston.org  
781.591.2372 • www.cds-boston.org

### **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  
413.268.7426 X102 • www.cdss.org

### **Folk Arts Center of New England**

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### **Pinewoods Post**

Susan St. Germain • Editor • joyfuldancer@verizon.net  
Judy Savage • Director • manager@pinewoods.org  
Kim Becker • Design & Layout

## Check Our Website

For additional information, photos and past issues of the Post, log onto [www.pinewoods.org](http://www.pinewoods.org).

## Annual Appeal

Our Annual Appeal letter will be in your mailbox any day now. Your ongoing support enables us to keep Pinewoods cared-for and protected, barely touched by development and time. The thoughtful stewardship of many individuals over the last 90 years has enabled our current campers to experience the Pinewoods "magic" in much the same way as campers did many decades ago. Improvements, from the addition of a shower to the building of a new dance pavilion, are only done after careful consideration of their potential impact on the Pinewoods experience we all value so much. Your feedback about those improvements has indicated that you value and appreciate all we are doing. We hope so. As a part of this community of caretakers, please support us as generously as you can. ◆

*Judy Savage,  
Pinewoods Camp Manager and Executive Director*

## The Scots at Pinewoods

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any problems that may arise. Their upbeat attitudes, talents, and sense of humor greatly enhance the experience of camp and add the excitement of seeing old friends to the many reasons campers look forward to being at Pinewoods. This year, many of the crew decided to try Scottish country dancing and attended several of our evening dances and parties. We were thrilled to have them dance with us and to share our love of this dance form.

Many lifelong friendships have started at Pinewoods and the recent popularity of sites such as Facebook has allowed campers to keep in touch and share pictures and memories long after camp has ended.

Once at camp, campers discover traditions and experiences created at Scottish Sessions that help to differentiate the sessions, not only from other sessions at Pinewoods, but also from other Scottish country dance events. Every morning, the piper makes a round of camp to act as the official alarm clock. After breakfast, campers separate into classes held at the dance pavilions. There are four class periods held throughout the day and classes are offered on technique, Highland, social dances, music, and yoga. There is also time available to nap, swim, look through the bookstore, or play games on the dock. After dinner, campers gather in C# for a social dance and then move to the Camphouse for an after-party, which often has a theme that showcases the creativity and ingenuity of the campers. Even after the party has wound down, enthusiastic dancers and musicians will stay up to dance and play until morning.

For many, one of the most beneficial aspects of camp is the opportunity to take classes from a variety of teachers and dance to the music of talented musicians. Pinewoods hosts three Scottish country dance teachers each year. Usually one teacher comes from overseas, sometimes from Scotland, so Scottish Sessions offer campers a direct link to the homeland of the dance form. The musicians are chosen from the world's best Scottish country dance musicians and their live music provides yet another wonderful experience for those who only dance to recorded music in their home classes.

There is a thriving tradition of practical jokes and "skullduggery" during Scottish Sessions. The most memorable prank this past year was that played on a newly engaged couple (traditionally housed in Boatman). During the course of the evening dance, coordinated teams removed all of the furniture from Boatman and deposited it in Ampleforth. After the shock



*Piper Mike MacNintch leads a lunchtime processional at Pinewoods 2010. Photo by Don Cheetham.*

wore off, all involved had a good laugh (and photo opportunity) and helped to move the furniture back.

The Boston Branch does their part to ensure that Pinewoods Camp is available for generations to come. Funds raised from auctions held at camp are donated to Pinewoods Camp, Inc. and the proceeds from Veronica's Attic, a traveling, Scottish-themed secondhand shop, are also sent to camp. The Branch also holds a Pinewoods Benefit Ball during the year, the proceeds of which are also donated to Pinewoods. The Branch considers these efforts a worthwhile investment in the future of both Pinewoods Camp and Scottish country dancing. To provide for future generations of campers and to support the current generation, the Branch sponsors scholarships for younger dancers (and in more recent years, those hit by the recession) to ensure that even dancers who cannot afford the full fee can still benefit from time at Pinewoods. The PCI scholarships that have recently been developed are a major factor in encouraging younger and newer dancers. For many of the recipients, these scholarships allow them to experience Pinewoods for the first time and their joy and excitement is clearly expressed in the thank-you letters they write, which are posted on the Pinewoods website.

For all of the above reasons (and many more) Pinewoods Scottish Sessions are a wonderful treat that many look forward to all year. The joy campers express upon arriving and the sorrow when they leave is a wonderful testament to the Pinewoods Camp legacy that we have all had a hand in creating and promoting. The RSCDS Boston Branch treasures their time at Pinewoods, and is looking forward to dancing there another 57 years! ◆

*Ralph Stoddard, assisted by Arianna Vogt*

## The Dish on the New Dining Hall

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the bathrooms. This new vestibule will provide space for several benches and a table for backpacks and instrument cases, as well as covered access to new camper bathrooms.

There will be changes in the landscape in front of the building. These are necessary to correct drainage problems and improve circulation for people and delivery vehicles. Newly created space, enclosed by low retaining walls and steps, will provide a place for campers to gather before and after meals. The group of pine trees in front of the Dining Hall will remain in place, thanks to insightful planning by Deborah Kruskal and Judy Savage. The service road leading from the west side of camp will be moved to the south, to align with the new truck dock, and this change will also create more distance between the new gathering area and truck traffic. Additional site features include a rain garden located along the camp side of the Dining Hall and a kitchen garden located between the gathering area

and the new service drive. Lads 6 cabin, currently located where the new work-yard will stand, is scheduled to be moved to a new site near Lads 1.

Pinewoods has obtained the required Order of Conditions from Plymouth Conservation Commission for construction of the project. The PCI Board of Directors has authorized Sterling Associates, Architects of Cambridge, providers of architectural services to the Facilities Committee, to proceed with preparation of construction documents. Les Plimpton of Scorpio Craftsmen – builder of the new Ampleforth pavilion – is working with Bill Sterling and the PCI Facilities Committee on the construction budget and schedule, with the expectation that construction will begin immediately following the close of camp in 2011, and will be complete by June 2012 in time for the opening of camp. ◆

*Warren Anderson, Dining Hall Project Manager*



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◆ AUTUMN 2010 ◆

Pinewoods Camp Inc. ◆ 80 Cornish Field Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360

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## Work Weekends

Pinewoods Work Weekends are loads of fun, as well as being absolutely necessary! Camp would not be able to open and close for the season or complete the occasional special project without the help of our many volunteers. Have you ever admired one of our freshly painted signs, appreciated how well-kept the grounds look, or taken note of all those carefully hung, hand sewn curtains in every cabin? Much of this work is done by volunteers. A record number of individuals helped us out this year, including long time campers, newcomers, and never-been-befores. They deserve heartfelt thanks from all of us! Here are their names in alphabetical order:

Janet & Ben Anderson	Karen Foss	Cecily Pilzer
Warren Anderson	Dragan Gill	Jean Poole
Rose Axelrod	Jim Greaney	Ruth & Doug Reiner
Hannah Bary	Noel Hess	Chris Reynolds
Katrina Bercaw	Sarah Hirsch	Susan St. Germain
Fred Boland	Steve & Sam Howe	Paul Sawyer
Pat Carden	John Kelsey	Sarah Spaeth
Ann Cowan	Emily Kovatch	Laura & Isabel Stearn
Jen Davis	Liz Levin	Laura Stringer
Carole-Lynn DeGroat	Paul Levitt	Scott Tribble
Gina Dunn	Laura Mandelberg	David Wells
Jan Elliott	Neil Miller	
B Dan Fairchild	Barbara Morrison	
Jane Finlay	Linda Nelson	

## Pinewoods Board of Directors 2010-11

Pinewoods Camp Inc.'s Board of Directors said farewell to long-time member Francis Attanasio this year. Francis has either directed or substantially participated in major Camp building projects during his tenure, contributing countless hours to ensure that Pinewoods facilities are upgraded while retaining their rustic appeal. Francis also worked extensively for the PCI Legacy Campaign, providing campaign pitches for many sessions. Pinewoods Camp is very grateful to Francis for his significant contributions, and wishes him a wonderful new life in California. ◆

*Ruth Reiner, President of PCI Board*

### **President**

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