



# The Pinewoods Post

◆ SPRING 2011 ◆

## The Many Lives of C# Dance Pavilion

In the 1960s, when I was a child, my family spent three or four weeks every August at the Point on Long Pond. Although not officially campers – there were only a few children at Pinewoods in those years – we participated in many camp activities as a result of my grandparents having ownership of Pinewoods at that time. Activities in C# were often what started and ended each day; from Morris dance class at 9:00 in the morning until the end of the evening dance, it seemed to me that the woods were filled with music – I was usually too sleepy to notice the ending, though. The building itself seemed so embedded in the landscape that I considered it an unchanged part of the original camp fabric. Imagine my surprise when, about two years ago, I discovered that there had been a previous version that I had never heard about! This discovery came when I was viewing old films from my grandparents' collection – I realized that what I thought of as "C# version one" actually had a predecessor!

Since the 1930s, when Pinewoods first became a dance camp, C# has been the largest pavilion and one of the places around which much of camp's shared experience occurs. The first version of C# was erected in the 1930s when the camp was owned by Helen Storrow. It was likely built by John Raymond, a local who was responsible for most of the camp buildings of that era. It was much more rustic than the pavilion we see today. The columns supporting the roof were peeled cedar logs set into the sand. The floor was barely off the ground. This building was fated not to last long. In 1938 a great hurricane swept through New England. When it was over, C# had been crushed to the ground by the



*C# as it looks today. Photo by Tony Baker*

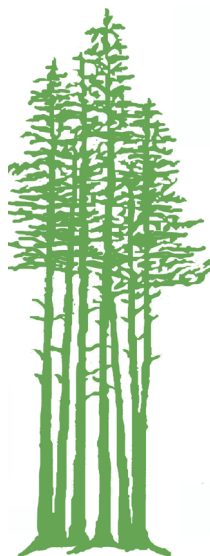
force of the wind and by trees falling on it. Movie images of the crushed pavilion were my revelation that this version of C# had existed.

Soon after the hurricane, C#-II was up. This was the building of my childhood memories. It too was very rustic. It may even have been built in part with wood salvaged from the first version. As you can see in the picture, it had cedar logs for columns and it rested close to the ground. For me, as a child, it was a wonderful playground – most of it was low enough that we could climb over any side. The roof was low enough that we could easily climb up into the beams and use them like a giant play

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## Work Weekenders Welcome

**Join us this spring at Pinewoods** for pre-season work weekends and this year's special treat: demolition of the old Changing Room! 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 27-30 and June 3-5. Autumn work weekends are September 8-11 and 16-18. Sign-up now via e-mail to Judy at [manager@pinewoods.org](mailto:manager@pinewoods.org), or 'phone (508) 224-4858. ◆



## Brim

What the music makes me miss  
unexpected but sharp & strong  
is not the pavilion  
nor eager hands in the dance  
but the sun through the trees  
bringing the ground to life,  
the wind through pines & oak  
and brilliant beeches,  
the sweep of the branches,  
the dip of the land,  
the wood of the dock underfoot,  
and smooth water as it slips  
past. Yes, it dazzles,  
that sun-rippled place;  
it shimmers and sings  
with yesterday's songs.

*B. Morrison*

*Pinewoods camper, crew, volunteer.*



*C#-I after the hurricane of 1938*



*Interior and old band-shell C#-II*

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## 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.

## 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

10 Franklin St., Stoneham, MA 02180-1862  
Marcie Van Cleave • Executive Director • fac@facone.org  
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### Pinewoods Post

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## Check Our Website

For additional information, 2011 schedule, photos and past issues of the Post, log onto [www.pinewoods.org](http://www.pinewoods.org)

## Notes from the Director

### What's New?

- This summer we will have a brand new Changing Room, located between the Camphouse and the Bookstore – much more convenient for you to stop and change into and out-of bathing suits before lunch or dinner. The old Changing Room, built in the 1920s on the shore of Long Pond, is now beyond repair – it will be demolished this spring during work weekends.
- C# will have a new floor. It will be made from Douglas Fir, like the previous floor, and will provide a terrific new surface for dancing for many years to come. We have purchased a new Yamaha U3 piano for the C# band-shell, and we also have a new Yamaha CP-300 digital piano for Ampleforth (thanks to a generous donation from one of our campers). I'm expecting we'll have even more wonderful music and dance this summer!
- Folks who will be attending camp this summer will be the last group to eat the fine meals prepared from our old kitchen. Food preparation in this space has been no easy task for our wonderful cooks. The antiquated layout has been challenging to negotiate, the painted wood floor difficult to keep clean, and storage space for food and equipment limited. We value our cooks and their meals, as we know you do, and we want them to be safe. We are excited about the new plans, but also a little sad to see the old space go... the nooks and crannies, the idiosyncratic solutions to storage problems, and the innovative constructions to help make things more efficient have made for a unique work environment. It was in this space that our famous chocolate chip cookies and many other great recipes were created, and where many of our crew first learned how to cook all those great meals. We invite you to help us celebrate a grand "last supper" for each of our sessions this summer!
- Your help will be particularly needed at the end of this year's season, as we pack up the kitchen equipment in preparation for the dining hall/kitchen renovation in September. Tables, benches, dishes, pots and pans all must be moved and stored away from the site. Extra time and volunteers will be needed to do this work; we have scheduled two work weekends in September and we encourage you to come help us.
- Sophie has had an enjoyable winter, but she's looking forward to welcoming everyone back to camp. It can get kind of lonely off season. She was out swimming the very first day the pond ice melted, and she has been patrolling camp looking for signs of fox, raccoon and geese. She has also been going to school working on her Good Citizen Certificate. She wasn't sure why everyone disappeared from camp last fall; she'll certainly be pleasantly surprised and happy when everyone returns! ◆

Judy Savage

## The Many Lives of C# Dance Pavilion

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structure (when adults were not looking!) For the dancers, it may not have been quite so magical. It had only about 60% of the floor area we're used to having nowadays. The band-shell was small, dark, and had poor acoustics. By the 1970s its smallness and the rot caused by its resting on the ground had made it clear that change must soon come.



*C# as it was in the 1960s*

Shortly after Pinewoods Camp Inc. was created to own and operate the camp, the C# pavilion was raised and enlarged. Rather than discard the original, the roof was extended about six feet both toward and away from the Square. Tree trunks were replaced with heavy sawn timber, the floor was raised to clear the ground and a new larger band-shell was built. New columns in the dance floor were its most unusual feature. Since the original roof had been retained, it had to be supported... but there were no longer any posts underneath. The building was now far too long for one beam to span, so two columns were placed on each side of the floor under the edge of the old roof. This put them about six feet into the dance floor. The band-shell floor extended out to them on one side, but on the other they were waiting in the floor to catch unwary dancers! While it was an inexpensive solution suited to the limited finances available at the time, such problems led to C#-III having a comparatively short life as well.

C#-IV, the building we now know and love, may become the longest-lived of all versions. It was erected in the mid-1980s to be a building with a 50-year lifespan. It is already 25 years old and is still in very good condition. This year its floor is being replaced – which will likely provide yet another 25 years of service. While it is cleaner and brighter than any of its ancestors, C# still provides us with that wonderful feeling of dancing in the forest! ◆

David Conant,  
PCI Board Member

## Join us for our Community Dance

Mark your calendars and come to Pinewoods for our annual pre-season community concert and dance on Sunday, June 12th. Meet up with friends and neighbors – old and new – and continue our ninety-some years old tradition of friendly ties with our neighbors around the Six Ponds. The sounds of laughter, fiddle music and bagpipes coming from Pinewoods during the summer months are often intriguing to our neighbors. By providing opportunities to include these folks in our Sunday night dances and our special concert and dance in June, we enable them to satisfy their curiosity and share some of the joy!

June's Community Dance festivities start at 7:00 P.M. in the Camphouse with some light refreshments, and continue at the Ampleforth dance pavilion until 10:00 P.M. No dancing experience is required. We welcome and encourage all newcomers! ◆



## A One-Time-Only Opportunity

Breaking, just this once, with Pinewoods Camp's policy and tradition of not accepting named gifts, Judy is offering you the opportunity of "naming rights" on a piece of Pinewoods for a period of one year. The eagerly-anticipated new kitchen needs a boost! You may bid to purchase naming rights on kitchen equipment including such items as the new Hobart dishwasher, the new walk-in refrigerator and freezer, the sliding barn door to the deck, the specially-designed dish window/door; you could even have a window overlooking Long Pond (much appreciated by the crew) named in your honor. Group purchases are welcomed and encouraged. We'd be very grateful if you'd help us with fun and funds to equip our new kitchen and have your name be a part of our history... well, for one year, anyway! A list of possibilities will be available this summer at camp. ◆

