



The Pinewoods Post

♦ AUTUMN 2011 ♦



The first "Harmony of Song and Dance Week" at Pinewoods

For singers who love to dance and for dancers who love to sing.

You wake up in your cabin in the woods, walk through a wooded path between tall slender pines to another cabin for your shower and ablutions. You join your greater family of singers and dancers in the Dining Hall for a hearty breakfast and a cup of coffee. Then you take the path up and over the wooded hill past a village of tiny cabins and down the other side to C# Minor pavilion where singing master George Emlin has already started vocal warm-ups. By 9:00 A.M. a hundred singers are gathered there and the daily 75-minute All Camp Chorale has begun. The repertoire includes English, Irish and Appalachian ballads, French Canadian call and response songs, African American gospel and spirituals, South African chant, English pub carols, and songs composed by folks steeped in the oral tradition.

After a short break, the entire camp splits into three groups for an hour of social dancing: Brad Foster leading English country dancing, Nils Fredland leading contras and squares, and me leading a beginners session in the basics of English and contra dancing.

Then swimming in the lake and jamming on the porch. And we haven't even had lunch yet!

The initial idea for this particular Pinewoods week came from Brad Foster, former Executive Director of CDSS, and Steve Howe, Director of Programs for CDSS; it was developed further by me and my wife and colleague Mary Alice Amidon. Harmony of

Song and Dance was built on the foundation of the annual CDSS Pinewoods Folk Music Week which had its main focus on traditional song in addition to dance. Mary Alice's and my goals were: 1) to keep alive the traditions developed during many decades of Folk Music Week, 2) to feature community singing and dance, and 3) to attract a diverse group of campers. We were thrilled at the turnout: one third of the campers had never been to Pinewoods before and there was a wide range of ages. Almost everyone came to everything offered: the All-Camp Chorale, the evening concerts, and the evening dances.

The morning All-Camp Chorale was the centerpiece of the week. At the first meeting each camper was given a three-ring binder inscribed with their name and containing all the music for the week. Realizing that we were introducing a new concept, we weren't surprised that there were a few kinks to be worked out – for instance, in the attempt to include as many singing leaders as possible we found we had made the teaching sessions too short which turned out to be frustrating for both the leaders and the singers. By week's end we had extended the teaching time and had fewer singing leaders in each session. Still, the fact that C# Minor was full of singers by 9:00 o'clock every morning was proof enough that daily All Camp Chorale is a tradition worth continuing.

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Swing into Summer 2011

Giving new life to Pinewoods First Weekend

When my dear friend Ronni Olitsky asked me to co-chair 2011's First Weekend I was not very excited at the prospect – First Weekend seemed to be struggling: attendance had declined in recent years and the weekend had lost some of its energy and vitality. So Ronni and I decided that, for the weekend to succeed and grow, we needed to come up with a whole new approach.

Revisioning

Over the years, the young families that comprised the core of First Weekend had grown up, and we realized that the key to increasing attendance and vitality was to attract the 20-somethings! As many similar organizations know, this is easier said than done. With this in mind, our first goal was to engage a few 20-somethings to be part of the visioning process for the weekend.



Photo by Max Newman

This was our best and most important decision! The success of the weekend was a direct result of the amazing ideas, hard work and commitment of Alex Krogh-Grabbe, Jeremy Carter-Gordon and Max Newman.

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Notes from the Director

It was a season of almost perfect weather, at least until the end of August. The new Changing Room, quickly decorated with colorful towels hung on the exterior walls, was a bright and welcome addition. Requests for more pegs started coming in to the Suggestion Box almost immediately so we knew it was being used much more than the old building ever was. Camp was full of happy campers doing traditional activities as well as things totally new. We welcomed 26 New Generation Initiative (NGI) scholarship recipients enrolled in 16 out of 18 sessions. The new piano and new floor in C# pavilion were immediately put to good use, and the music and dance continued much as it has for the past 80 years.

People responded enthusiastically and generously to our Named Gift Campaign for the Dining Hall and Kitchen renovation, donating over \$55,000 to help us purchase some much-needed new equipment. We are looking forward to the addition of the "Great Scot" (the new walk-in refrigerator freezer), the newly renovated "Early Morning Light Windows", and the many other creatively-named items coming next summer. There is still time to add your name, or a name of a loved-one, to a piece of the kitchen next year. Call me at camp if you still want to take part in this historic and one-time-only opportunity.

Our "last supper" in the old Dining Hall was on Labor Day. Unfortunately we were still coping with the aftereffects of T.S. Irene so were unable to make it the grand celebration we had hoped it would be. Having felt the Virginia earthquake here at Pinewoods during Campers week, we thought we'd had sufficient excitement for this summer... but, no, there was more in store for us – Irene! – a storm worse than 1991's Hurricane

Bob. Our intrepid English and American Week campers did a heroic job cleaning up the next morning, after hunkering down in the safety of the Dining Hall during the storm the previous day. Our amazing crew kept things going for the next two weeks with no electricity and with a water pump powered only by generator. That meant cooking with headlamps, washing and sterilizing all cooking utensils, pots and pans by

hand, turning generators on and off at all hours of the day and night, refilling large water buckets in bathrooms several times a day, and generally keeping things running as smoothly as possible. I rarely heard them complain. They met the challenge with their own creative solutions, lots of extra effort, and, thankfully, a sense of humor. Kudos as well to our English and American Week and Labor Day campers and staff. They got a bit more of an authentic camping experience than they bargained for, but went home with some very interesting stories.

We were dealing not only with the challenge of keeping camp going for our campers, but also with preparing for deconstruction of the kitchen to begin immediately following campers' departure after Labor Day. We had little wiggle room for storm clean-up beyond the main paths and camper areas. Our attention needed to focus on quickly and efficiently closing camp so that the construction project could start on time. Our dedicated and hardworking Work Weekend volunteers helped us move all the tables and benches from the Dining Hall into Newbiggin for the winter, and they even saved the marble machine in Phane by cutting out the section of wall behind it. We moved all the kitchen equipment to be saved into storage pods, and donated or scrapped the rest. Kind neighbors around both ponds helped us launder curtains and towels since we had little or no electricity or water for our own washing machines. Camp did get closed on schedule, thanks to the collective goodwill and help of many friends.

If you are curious to see photos of the progress on the Kitchen/ Dining Hall renovation please visit our Facebook page. We are posting new pictures all the time. Lads 6 has been carefully relocated and is now nestled between Sleights and the Paris baths. The bare bones of the original kitchen are now exposed and being shored up and restored in preparation for the new addition. Massive mounds of dirt and sand are piled up around the old entrance to the kitchen as a result of excavation work for the new footings. The weather has been good, enabling everything to happen pretty much on schedule, to date. Keep your collective fingers crossed for this to continue!

Sophie and I are very happy to finally have electricity restored. She is recuperating from elbow surgery, had to endure the "cone of shame" for two weeks, and is now swimming in Long Pond as part of her physical therapy (she follows me as I kayak). She is very impressed with both the size of the hole the excavator dug and the size of the "sticks" from the downed trees. She also misses all of you and hopes, as I do, to welcome everyone back next summer!◆



*Lads 10 cabin, the only building damaged.
Photo by Bill Card*

User Groups

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Judy Savage

A collection of people's memories of Irene at Pinewoods

Scott Higgs wrote:

"We were happily dancing in C# Minor when the power went out – in the middle of a dance. This was still mid-morning, before the winds were serious enough to drive us to seek shelter. After lunch, the storm grew earnest, and we all spent a long day in the Dining Hall, playing games, reading, telling stories, singing, and napping ... with occasional forays out the front door to examine the sky and the waving trees.

We were lucky – the brunt of the storm passed west of camp. We experienced strong winds, but nothing that was fright-inducing from inside the Dining Hall. The rain was considerably less than predicted. The biggest impact of the hurricane was the lengthy time without power. Everything at camp becomes 300% harder without electricity.

One generator allowed the kitchen to function in a scaled-down fashion. Another sat beside the well, and gave us running water (only at specified times of day). Marcie Van Cleave rescued the evening dance by driving down from Boston with a third generator and a preposterously long extension cord. With George Marshall's skill at re-wiring, this allowed us to have light and a sound system in C# at night -- with the generator sufficiently distant that its noise was not a problem. This was a huge blessing for everyone. (Candle and lantern-light is charming at first, but soon becomes fatiguing, and callers' voices were straining to shout over the band and 100+ dancers.)

Countless buckets of water were hauled up from the pond to allow a few key bathrooms to flush toilets during the "off" hours for the well pump (otherwise, it was outhouses).

After the storm, the air was crisp, and the sky was startlingly clear, as though every wisp of cloud in a hundred-mile radius had been thoroughly blown away. Yes, we found ourselves compelled to eat all the ice cream bars from the camp store -- one aspect of clean-up that found nearly everyone eager to participate."

Sol Weber wrote:

"The first evening dance was rather magical, with C# romantically illuminated by dim battery lights, with dancers speaking softly so the non-amplified callers could be heard, and often an air of mystery as to exactly who you were asking to dance. When George Marshall, the next day, rigged up a generator to add more lighting and a simple P.A. system, many of us had mixed feelings. Another generator and a hard-working pump supplied water at specified times, with schedules posted in each toilet and shower. Folks glancing at their watches more often than not were planning their next bathroom visit -- conventional flushing at 8:55 pm or the water bucket at 9:05pm?"

Carl Friedman wrote:

"Having stayed on from Campers' Week, I was there from Saturday. As Steve had sent out an e-mail suggesting that campers and staff consider not coming until Monday, there was a fairly small group on Saturday night – about 40 campers, plus crew, Steve & Meg, Scott Higgs, and the ECD band (Childgrove, from Michigan). We had a delightful first night dance in C#.

On Sunday morning we had a small group dancing in C#Minor, having been instructed to come to the Dining Hall by 11 A.M., or sooner if conditions warranted. The sky was gray at that point, but it wasn't raining (maybe a few sprinkles), and at ground level there was at most a gentle breeze. From where I was, I couldn't see the treetops, but while playing for a dance around 10:00 A.M., I heard a loud crack and I looked toward C# pavilion where I saw most of the upper part of a pine tree twist and then come crashing down onto the path to C#. A glance upward saw the treetops swaying, though not as dramatically as the crashing tree would have suggested. The lights flickered and went out either shortly before or after that – I think it was prior. Then there were several loud bangs as smaller tree branches hit the roof of C#Minor. We all elected to abandon the dance and head for the Dining Hall.

From then until some time after supper, most campers remained in the Dining Hall, though some of us ventured over to Pinecones to play tunes and relax. The Dining Hall had a few clip-lights in operation as the camp used generators for electricity to power the kitchen and the water pump.

It was like a storm from another planet: NO (water) rain(!), and mostly only a gentle breeze at ground level, while the treetops swayed and twisted. Twigs, branches, pinecones, and pine needles rained down everywhere, covering all the paths and open areas. There were whitecaps on the ponds. But only one car was significantly damaged, and no one was hurt.

We danced on Sunday night without power, using some battery-powered lights which provided enough illumination that we could dance.

On Monday morning those present cleared the paths and open spaces so that by lunchtime, except for some of the downed trees, the tree debris was gone. There were some power lines down, so some trees were not removed: the road between the entrance and C#Minor was blocked by a tree, as was the path on the south side of the PCI office leading to C#.

Most of the rest of the campers and staff arrived on Monday, and the formal program started then with a dance in C#, again with only battery-powered light. Sue Dupré didn't get there to teach molly-dance, but Cameron Schraner, a camper who came from Australia to take Sue's molly class, taught that class. George Marshall, in his role as sound-man for the week, hooked up a generator that provided the light and sound system for C#, so there was that oasis of electrical normalcy in camp, and the Tuesday through Friday evening dances were almost as if nothing had happened. However, across the rest of the camp, there was no power all week, except for that provided by generators. Flashlights were de rigueur at all hours, for bathrooms, etc. The water supply was available only at certain hours (about 12 hours per day), which meant that bathroom use and showers required a bit more timing than usual. We ate on paper plates and used plastic utensils. Coffee and tea making was an adventure. Otherwise the meals were as one would expect at Pinewoods.

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Check Our Website

For additional information, 2012 schedule, photos and past issues of the Post, log onto www.pinewoods.org

A collection of people's memories of Irene at Pinewoods

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We had late night parties and dances with lantern and candle lighting in the Camphouse. Someone told me that it was Scott's car battery that powered the caller mic used in the Camphouse. Friday night, around 10:00, some of the lights came on in the Square and the Camphouse (only), and we had a great last night party. The singing was still going strong when I decided I needed some sleep at around 2 A.M.

The weather remained beautiful once Irene passed. And the stars were spectacular with power out in the whole area and the clouds gone.

Many, many thanks to Steve Howe, Judy Savage, and the Pinewoods crew, who all worked extra hard to make it a great week!"

Diane Friedman wrote:

"Everyone pitched in and helped with the clean up. However, I do want to especially mention two standout volunteers: Bob and Laura Stein, who spent many hours picking up loads of fallen branches and debris from the Pinecones front yard/parking lot. Bob diligently took a rake and literally raked every inch of the grounds there. I do not think it was ever so well manicured! I admired his handiwork all week. Only those who had seen the transformation could fully appreciate his efforts."

Jennifer Rusche wrote:

"I was there through the storm. A couple of favorites stand out: myself and Thom Yarnal and Martha Stokely (I think?) sitting out on the Long Pond dock Sunday morning as the hurricane began to blow in. The wind was so fierce that there were whitecaps and we could see (and feel!) spray flying several feet above the waves. It was quite glorious, actually. Later in the week, for the "So You Think You Can Cook" party, Mies Boet-Whitaker and I prepared an entry: Hurricane Irene salad (see photo), which featured bits of fallen pine trees (we cleaned up *a lot* of sticks!), caution tape, pinecones, sawdust, and the game Bananagrams (which got played for hours on Sunday while we were hiding in the Dining Hall). I'm sure many of us can attest to how sturdy that Dining Hall is!"



*Hurricane Irene Salad!
Photos by Doug Plummer*



Mog Youngberg, head of grounds crew, wrote:

"I remember waking up at 4:00 A.M. because of the wind, on the day of the hurricane. I started the day under-slept, but we were all content and busy until the power went out around 10 or 11 on Sunday morning. The wind was terrible over by Round Pond. Gillian and I were in the Highlands, trying to turn on the water generator, and we kept hearing horrible cracking noises, followed by nothing – that was the worst! It meant a branch might fall another time when you weren't expecting it. I still can't smell fresh-cut pine without feeling nervous. That, and the smell of gasoline. After lunch that day, I went to nap in Lads 6, and I was woken by the tree falling on Lads 10, and another that fell right before that (near Lads 5 and 8). Most of us went back to the safety of the Dining Hall after that.

Sunday seemed a never-ending hell for me. I was jumpy any time I went outside and heard a crack. Judy didn't want me or Gillian to leave the Dining Hall to go turn the water on, because things were so bad along her part of Round Pond. That evening we walked around in the dark, surveying the damage – it was probably a bad idea, but we did it anyway. The power line down in the Hunsdon lot was the really tricky bit. But the next morning was phenomenal. Somewhere I mustered the energy to give tasks to many eager campers, and everyone together sawed pathways clear. The chainsaw crew did a terrific job. But my heart went out to all of the bunches of people clearing the paths using handsaws. They were amazingly fast and efficient. By the time the rest of the campers started arriving, camp looked pretty normal. George Marshall saved my week: he hooked Marcie Van Cleave's borrowed generator up so that it powered C# and he created a magnificent muffler from old mattresses and plywood!

Crisis mode was easy, after a fashion. I started feeling really sad mid-week when I realized we were in this for the long haul. It stopped feeling exciting by Tuesday. Then, it was just exhausting. I felt like everyone else was adjusting easily and having fun, both the campers and everyone else on crew. But I was burnt out and exhausted beyond belief. Having to turn the water on and off meant that I was never relaxed. I always had another alarm (internal, or else on my cell phone – I had alarms set for every time the water should go on and off) hovering on the horizon. And when we got to the closing of camp, the non-constant water became really challenging for laundry purposes – all those curtains? Oof!"

Annual Appeal

The 2012 Annual Appeal kicks off in early November. This year your support is more important than ever. We were hit hard by Irene – even though downgraded to a tropical storm by the time she came through camp, she had the effect of a hurricane on us. The roof of Lads 10 was smashed. Downed trees damaged every major power line in the area. A dozen of our largest trees came crashing down and required removal. We are now reevaluating our emergency preparedness and upgrading things like generators for the future. Our large buildings are all insured against severe damage (e.g. a falling tree), but it is simply not cost-effective for us to insure our many small cabins – basically these are "self-insured" with our reserve funds. We depend on you – our campers, supporters, friends of Pinewoods – to make sure those funds are always there when needed. Please be part of our community of caretakers and support us as generously as you can. Your gift, in any amount, is important, is very much appreciated and is bound to be put to good use. ◆

Swing into Summer 2011

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Conversations happened over many months and our new vision emerged: let's keep the best of the old and then design, staff and focus our marketing efforts so that there would be enough young people to make the weekend fun for everyone. We envisioned a great staff (including young leaders and musicians), lots of fun classes and activities (staffed and volunteer led), hot dancing, singing and music (into the wee hours), the magic of Pinewoods and a great affordable price! Thankfully, the CDS-Boston Board of Directors supported this new vision fully and authorized an increase in staff budget and a decrease in prices for the targeted generation.

Rebranding

We needed a new name. It turned out that "First Weekend" was confusing: some people thought it was a work weekend and others thought it was the first weekend in June – both untrue. Max suggested Swing into Summer and it stuck! To keep the connection with the past and to build on Pinewoods name recognition, we named it Swing into Summer: Pinewoods First Weekend!

At this point, Alex took the lead and designed fabulous graphics and a website <http://swingintosummer.cds-boston.org/> that fully expressed what we hoped the experience at Swing into Summer would be: hot, contemporary, fun, intergenerational, vibrant and Pinewoods.

Recruiting

When I first started dancing in NYC in 1976, Jim Morrison was executive director of CDSS and he was all of 28 years old! Over the years, when people would ask how to get "kids" involved in various dance activities, I would think of young Jim and suggest that the answer might be to put the "kids" in a position of leadership and responsibility. Well, here was an opportunity to test my theory!

So the kid I went to first was my own. Jeremy Carter-Gordon grew up dancing at Pinewoods and was now finishing up his senior year of college majoring in the anthropology of dance. I was excited about this opportunity to work with Jeremy on reviving First Weekend and I was thrilled that he agreed. Jeremy was passionate about preserving the intergenerational nature of the weekend and he was able to lead a variety of classes, morning gatherings and most notably the Saturday night Pub Sing. Jeremy was also well connected within the dance community and took responsibility for hiring a good chunk of the staff.

Max Newman was the CDSS Youth Intern when I met him at Pinewoods in the summer of 2010. I immediately set about picking his brain about how to interest his peers in First Weekend. I discovered that Max had a lot of ideas AND that if we hired "Nor'easter" to play for the weekend not only would we have an immensely popular young band, but we would also get



Photo by Liz Resnick

the commitment of Max and the band to promote and publicize the weekend and to help recruit campers. What a deal!

And, as an extra bonus, Max brought Alex Krogh-Grabbe onto the team. Alex is one bright, creative and connected dancer who moved us into the 21st century with a fabulous website, Facebook page and a social networking strategy.

Reviving

With a new name, identity and on-line presence, the guys took to the streets – I mean dances – with both a low tech and high tech approach to marketing. Alex produced business cards which he, Max and Jeremy used to spread the word about this hot new weekend. Handy, portable and cool, the business card had all the information that was needed – callers, musicians, dates, and website address – to have impact, make an impression and facilitate a personal invitation.

Alex also put up an excellent Facebook page and then we started getting the word out via social networking. Both the Facebook page and the website were linked to a new on-line registration system which made the whole experience integrated, quick and easy. And after people signed-up they were encouraged to help market the weekend to their friends!

Results

Well, it all worked! Campers seemed to have a great time and Swing into Summer has enjoyed rave reviews from young and old alike. What follows are a few quantitative measures of our success:

	2010	2011
Total Attendance	119	146
Campers Aged 16-26	14	48
New to Pinewoods	n/a	30
New to Weekend	n/a	58

But don't just take our word for it, experience it yourself next year! Swing into Summer: Pinewoods First Weekend, June 15-17, 2012

Chuck Gordon, Co-Chair of Swing Into Summer 2011

The first "Harmony of Song and Dance Week" at Pinewoods

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Mary Alice and I discovered traditional music and dance in 1975 and soon afterward attended our first week at Pinewoods: Folk Music Week. It was a life-changing experience for me: I went to the week wanting to become a better fiddler, and I came out of the week to become a lifelong singer! Our careers, as teachers and publishers of dances for children and leaders of choral singing for adults, have flowed directly out of our experiences during more than thirty CDSS weeks at Pinewoods. We are forever grateful to the Country Dance & Song Society and to Pinewoods Camp for making possible these wonderful experiences and for enriching the lives of so many other folk. We are heartened to find, as we travel around the country in our work, that Pinewoods has a well-deserved reputation as one of the very best places for community dance and singing. ◆

*Peter Amidon, Co-Chair,
Harmony of Song and Dance, 2011*



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♦ AUTUMN 2011 ♦

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

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Work Weekend Volunteers

Without the help of many volunteers, Pinewoods would not be able to accomplish all the tasks needing to be done for the opening and closing of camp. This past year, the following individuals generously donated their time and efforts at our spring and autumn Work Weekends. We all owe them heartfelt thanks!

JANET ANDERSON	NELL HARKNESS	WILL QUALE
LIZ ANDERSON	NOEL HESS	RUTH REINER
BEN ANDERSON	ALICE KAUFMAN	DOUG REINER
WARREN ANDERSON	JEFF KAUFMAN	CHRIS REYNOLDS
BILL CARD	CONNIE KENT	PAUL SAWYER
DAVID CONANT	LIZ LEVIN	JESSICA SHULTZ
FLOREATINE CORBESA	PAUL LEVITT	SARAH SPAETH
JEN DAVIS	SARAH MACLACHLAN	SUSAN ST. GERMAIN
RICK DODDS	LAURA MANDELBERG	LAURA STRINGER
JAN ELLIOTT	BARBARA MORRISON	REGINE TILLMANN
KAREN FOSS	LINDA NELSON	MARK WARD
DRAGAN GILL	ANDREA NEWELL	CAT WARE
ELGIE GINSBURG	CECILY PILZER	DAVE WELLS
ANTHONY GOODSON	SARAH PILZER	JULIA WISE
JIM GREANEY	JEN POOLE	THOM YARNAL

PCI Board News

As the year comes to a close, Pinewoods Camp Inc.'s Board of Directors bids fond farewell and thanks to the following members: Henry Chapin, Ken Launie and Lois Post. Henry Chapin, a CDSS representative, finishes his second stint on the board; he has been actively involved in communications, camp use and assessment of donated instruments. Ken Launie is retiring after 12 years on the PCI board representing RSCDS-Boston, during which time he served on many committees as well as keeping track of insurance and liability information. Lois Post has served for six years as At-Large Pond Neighbor representative; she has been actively involved in several committees and an enthusiastic, helpful, knowledgeable liaison with Six Ponds Association, Wildlands Trust and Pinewoods Camp. ♦

Ruth Reiner, President of PCI Board