



The Pinewoods Post

◆ AUTUMN 2013 ◆

A Campers Week Serenade

In the summer of 1984, bored with tent-camping and cooking-over-campfire vacations, our family (two parents, two teenagers) decided to try something new. We signed-up for Campers' Week at Pinewoods. All four of us loved music and singing, and my husband Wayne and I had done some international folk and contra dancing... so, how bad could it be to spend a week of music and dance with other like-minded families (plus all meals provided!)?

Little did we know we would end up returning year after year after year to Pinewoods' Campers' Week; that our daughter's family would do the same from the time their oldest child was a toddler; that some years we'd have all six of our grandchildren at camp.

Why has this week become practically a fixture of our family's summers?

First, there's the beauty and peacefulness of the setting. Trees of all sizes ~ pine, beech, and others ~ dot

the landscape. Two idyllic ponds for swimming, canoeing, and sitting on the dock with friends. Rustic but comfortable cabins scattered over the grounds. Open-air dance pavilions. An open-sided Dining Hall with a sunlit porch and walls that can be partially closed to keep out rain and wind. Inviting paths leading in all directions.

Then, there's the tangible heritage of many years of loving use and care of the grounds and structures. The carefully-planned-and-executed improvements that never seem jarring ~ handcrafted bed-frames, benches, wooden platforms, new-and-improved mattresses, expansions of the Camphouse and Dining Hall, a recently re-designed main kitchen. Which brings me to the food heritage: a history of serving good food and plenty of it.

And there's the excitement of seeing long-time friends who, like us, keep returning to this particular week; so there's a Brigadoon-like feeling of a community

coming to life once a year and creating a great time for itself. Still, there are newcomers every year, and that too is exciting.

Campers Week got its start as a spin-off from Family Week, but with no paid program staff. The adult campers themselves offered classes, played music, taught songs, organized lots of "homegrown" entertainment. This carried over, even as paid staff were added to the mix: Wayne and I have found ourselves leading waltz, hambo, and swing dance classes and teaching introductory English country dance, waltz, and swing moves to classes for teens. Campers Week is where I took my first opportunity to play piano for English country dance (not very well, that first time, believe me! There's more to it than meets the eye!) Creativity from the campers bubbles up constantly during the week; it's wired into Campers' Week culture.

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At Water's Edge
Photo by Jeff Bary



Archetypical Campers Week
Photo by Jeff Bary

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(formerly referred to as User Groups)

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Check Our Website

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photos, past issues of the Post, log on to our website:
www.pinewoods.org

Note:

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Remember to click "Submit" for your new info to be processed. Thanks!



Notes from the Director

The following quote from Brian Eno, British composer, artist, activist and producer, was posted all over my office this summer, "I believe singing is the key to long life, a good figure, a stable temperament, increased intelligence, new friends, super self-confidence, heightened sexual attractiveness and a better sense of humor. A recent long-term study conducted in Scandinavia sought to discover which activities related to a healthy and happy later life. Three stood out: camping, dancing, and singing."

Need I say more?

I am filled with gratitude to Helen Storrow for giving birth to this place back in 1919, to the Conant family for giving it form and shape and nurturing it along for so many decades, to the many folks who had the vision and foresight to form an incorporated non-profit to purchase Pinewoods from the Conants in the 1970s, and to all those individuals who have committed time, financial resources, and sweat-equity over the past 40 years to bring camp to where it is today. I am grateful for the folks who return summer after summer to teach and learn, laugh and dance and sing and play together. Each summer I have the privilege of witnessing a community being formed anew. The joy is palpable on the paths, in the Dining Hall, in the Ponds, and especially in the dance pavilions.

Keep coming to Pinewoods, spread the word, and initiate your friends and family if you haven't already done so.

It has been a wonderful season. Our Program Providers outdid themselves, bringing astoundingly talented cadres of musicians and dance and song leaders to all their sessions. Our campers created even more fun at numerous memorable festivities at all hours of the day and night. Our crew cooked and cleaned (and danced and laughed) while cheerfully responding to requests to make camp as enjoyable as possible. Sophie played her part too, making sure everyone felt sufficiently secure and loved. It was hot, but, in the spirit of making lemonade out of lemons, it inspired our campers at July 4th Weekend to establish a fund to buy fans for C# Minor and Ampleforth pavilions. The fans were installed this week and will make dancing much cooler and more enjoyable next summer.

All is quiet now. Even as we tuck everything away for the winter, we have begun planning for next summer. We look forward to welcoming you, and your friends, and all who want to share the joy of camp next year! ◆

Judy Savage



Cooling Ceiling Fans

Photo by Judy Savage

PCI President's Message

This year, 2013, has been an especially busy one for Pinewoods' Board of Directors. Among other achievements, we have completed two major projects that the board has discussed for several years:

- Creation of a beautiful and highly functional new website. The design team comprised Executive Director Judy Savage, board members Deborah Kruskal, Susan Saint Germain, and David Conant, and web-designer Ethan Hazard-Watkins. The new site provides much more information than the old site did, including a more detailed history of camp, links to our program providers' schedules, and helpful information for new and returning campers, in a visually compelling design enriched by many evocative photos of camp.
- Creation of an informative brochure for planned giving. Judy Savage, Meg Carver and I (Warren) completed a brochure to appeal to people who wish to make a bequest or other type of gift to Pinewoods when planning their estates or preparing their wills. This Planned Giving brochure describes the importance people's gifts of assets can play in sustaining the financial security of Pinewoods.

An unusually destructive winter storm took a heavy toll on our grounds and buildings this year, as we reported in the spring edition of the Pinewoods Post ~ see:

<http://www.pinewoods.org/news/pinewoods-post/>

Restoration and repairs provided us with a new crew cabin, named "The Hop Ground" by this year's crew, and a good supply of rough-sawn framing lumber that we can use in the construction of two new cabins planned for a site in the lower Highlands. Other projects to be completed before camp re-opens in 2014 include renovation of "Amsterdam" ~ the building adjacent to the garage ~ to increase the number of showers and toilets for use by campers staying in cabins in the Highlands, and installation of a new septic system near the garage in connection with renovation of "Amsterdam".

Finally, on September 14th, Judy and several members of the PCI Board of Directors held a retreat with representatives of our four program providers to discuss recent changes that are affecting the operation of camp. The day-long meeting, facilitated by Doug Thompson and Justin Wright of the Consensus Building Institute, included lively and sustained discussion of demographic and cultural changes occurring in the traditional dance and music communities that are affecting attendance at, and support of, programs at Pinewoods. The day concluded with formation of several task groups to consider the structure of the schedule of sessions, collection and analysis of attendance data gathered by Pinewoods and program providers, strategies to market programs to young dancers and musicians, and mechanisms for maintaining contact between Pinewoods and the program providers to share information and exchange ideas.

Judy and the PCI Board of Directors have accomplished much over the past ten years, including completion of major capital improvements funded by the Legacy Campaign, creation of the new website, and financial planning for the future security of Pinewoods. I feel that the camp is in a time of transition as the generation of leaders and supporters of Pinewoods who worked with diligence and foresight to create the camp we see today are beginning to entrust leadership of the camp to a younger generation of dancers and musicians. ◆

Warren Anderson
President, Pinewoods Camp, Inc.

A Campers Week Serenade

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Beloved traditions have arisen. Perhaps the best-loved is one of the early ones, begun by Vaughn Ward the second year we attended: the launching of "Wish Boats" from the Long Pond dock onto the water. (For several years now, Wayne has brought the materials for the boats and has overseen their construction.) The children who wish to (and a few older folks who cling to their childhood) decorate small blocks of wood with natural materials found at camp and add tea-candles with protective clear-plastic wind-guards. At dusk on the final evening of camp, the children, accompanied by a parent or guardian, walk out onto the Long Pond dock, light their candles, and launch their boats at the far end, making a wish as they slip them onto the water. The rest of us gather close together on the beach and the steps leading down from the Camphouse, harmonizing on songs we've learned together and mostly know from memory, watching the brave little parade of boats floating away from the dock, their tiny lights reflected in the blue-black water as darkness gradually descends.

As we sing and sway together (sometimes for quite a while after the children and their parents have headed off to bedtime), I suspect more than a few of us are making a common wish. A wish deep in our hearts ~ that, while keeping some of the spirit of the week in our more mundane daily lives at home, we can return next year for yet another Campers' Week at Pinewoods.

How could we not wish that? This is a place and an opportunity for humans, nature, music, and dance to grow and flourish in remarkable ways. ◆

Joyce Crouch

Walking Down the Path at Pinewoods

There is always music at Pinewoods
Even when no one is there,
For the wind in the pines is singing,
While the rippling of the waves of Long Pond
Rock the reeds and purple iris in a gentle lullaby.

Walking down the path at Pinewoods,
Underneath a canopy of pines,
Dappled light reveals blueberries,
As I smell the fresh water of Long Pond,
And the Day Lilies planted by the stairs.

Pinewoods is a land of enchantment,
In the midst of breathtaking beauty,
Everyone is welcomed, with love,
And whenever I return to Pinewoods,
I know that I have finally come home.

~ Jennifer Barron Southcott
October 14, 2013



Labors of Love

Please join us in giving heartfelt thanks to the 46 individuals who generously donated their time and efforts at our 2013 spring and autumn Work Weekends. Many of these folks routinely come to more than one work session each year. We would not be able to either open or close camp without their help. This year they cleared mountains of tree-fall from the previous winter's storms, moved outhouses, cut and split logs, painted doors, windows and new beds, moved the dock to Long Pond (then took it back in the fall), as well as opened (then closed) dozens of camp buildings. Great times for all, as we ate, danced, sang, celebrated Judy's birthday, and carried out our work assignments. Consider joining us next year!



Work Weekenders - Photo by Judy Savage

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Claire Anacreon | Dragan Gill |
| Warren Anderson | Jim Greaney |
| Ben Anderson | Noel Hess |
| Elizabeth Anderson | Henrietta Isene |
| Janet Anderson | Colin Lindsay |
| Katrina Bercaw | Paul Levitt |
| Steve Bohrer | Diane Lockhart |
| Jerry Callen | Hannah Mcardle |
| Jennifer Davis | Abraham McClurg |
| Jan Elliott | Lindsay and Ken Morgan |
| Cathy Fahey | Barbara Morrison |

Justin Morrison
 Linda Nelson
 Tom O'Connor
 Katy Petersen
 Emily Peterson
 Cecily Pilzer
 Les Plimpton
 Susie Petrov
 Ruth Reiner
 Chris Reynolds
 Marissa Roque

Jennifer Rusche
 Susan St. Germain
 Jessica Schultz
 Anna & Vera Shipanova
 Gillian Stewart
 Stephen Thomforde
 Dirk Tiede
 Becky Touger
 Brian Ward
 Mark Ward
 Seth Weidner