



The Pinewoods Post

◆ AUTUMN 2014 ◆

A Brief History of Pinewoods Capital Projects

Part I: the first 25 years

For our annual Board retreat in 2013 Judy Savage asked me to present a summary of the building projects that Pinewoods Camp Inc. has completed since its incorporation in 1975. This seemed a daunting task – we have done so much! I had been a relatively new camper in 1975, but had some knowledge of the issues in those early years. In 1991, I became more deeply involved as a member of the PCI Board, participating first as a member of the Management Committee, then the Site Plan Committee, and now the Camp Facilities Committee, each of which took its turn analyzing the “why, when, where and how” of our building projects. It is really quite impressive and rewarding to look back over last 39 years.

1975-1984

The purchase price for Pinewoods included \$80,000 for capital improvements. Not much in today's dollars, but it seemed substantial then. Care for the buildings and infrastructure had been sadly delayed for many years due to lack of funds, and virtually every building needed attention. Although not obviously apparent, cabins were sinking into the ground, roofs were leaking, and wood was slowly rotting. Wiring and plumbing were in serious need of

upgrading. Volunteers pitched in however they could, money was judiciously allocated, and by the end of the first decade, almost every building had been stabilized, updated and repaired, and C# had been entirely rebuilt. To save the expense of renting neighboring cabins from the camp's previous owners, the Conant family, we began building our own – six Highlands cabins, The Betsy, Mock Hobby Horse, and two crew cabins -- and carving additional bedrooms out of existing spaces in Pinecones, Kendal Ghyll and Royton.

1985-1999

By this point our attendance was at an all time high, and we felt compelled to address the campers' increased need for safety and comfort. This included lengthening the Camphouse to accommodate a full camp, as well as rebuilding C# yet again due to a failure in its structural stability – a move that left us without our largest dance pavilion for the entire 1985 season.

The biggest task was to meet the overwhelming demand for more toilets and showers. Eight new septic systems and a new well in the Highlands were installed. Toilets were added near Back Lads, the Dining Hall, the Camphouse, the User Group Office, and Hunsdon House.

In addition, the kitchen was renovated. (The one camper request we did not agree to was for a sauna!)

Sadly, there was also an unanticipated project during this period. John Raymond, the manager's cabin, was destroyed by a fire in the fall of 1990. Camp Manager Susannah Diamondstone was not at home, but she lost all her possessions along with her elderly dog. A “real” house replaced the old 1932 cabin to allow a future manager a place to live year-round.

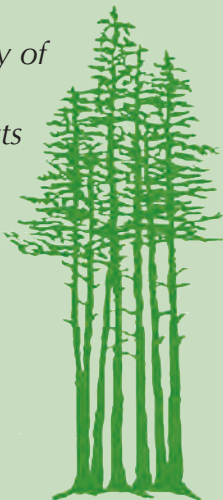
2000

Throughout this period, the process of “why, when, where and how” was fairly straightforward. The projects were discrete and approached in a sequential and logical order. But by the millennium we were finding conflicting needs and less obvious answers on “where” and “how” – things like a place for late-night jamming, common crew space, a larger User Group Office, another dance pavilion/class space, handicap accessibility, location for the Manager's Office, erosion problems in the Square, and on and on. How we tackled these problems was like solving one jigsaw puzzle after another - a fascinating process, and one I hope to share in future issues of the Pinewoods Post. ◆

Deborah Kruskal

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Congratulations to America's oldest morris team, the Pinewoods Morris Men, founded at camp in 1964. On to the next 50 years!



Morris dancers in C#, before the founding of PMM



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www.pinewoods.org

Note:

This autumn edition of the Pinewoods Post is being sent
out via regular mail.



Notes from the Director

Changes are afoot for next summer. As many of you are aware, for the first time in many years we have had a week to fill at the end of August. It was the topic of lively discussion this summer as CDSS made the difficult decision to reduce their sessions at camp from seven to six. Both CDSS and Pinewoods agree that demographic shifts, changes in demand, and increased competition are affecting enrollment. CDSS is also seeking to decentralize its camp programming and to create a greater presence in the mid-west.

A vibrant dance and song community continues to exist, but participants are attending a larger variety of programs in more diverse locations for shorter periods of time. While there is no doubt that Pinewoods Camp will continue to be the mecca of traditional music and dance, and that we will remain committed to our existing Program Providers, changing times demand change on our part, too.

Pinewoods has a long history of adapting to meet the needs of the community it serves. Deborah Kruskal's article on the history of our capital projects describes one way we have adapted over the years. Our mission has always been to maintain, operate, preserve and protect the rustic environment of Pinewoods for the use of non-profit organizations dedicated to traditional music and dance. It is here that they have been able to foster and grow the communities they serve. So it makes sense that as our communities' needs change, so must we.

We will be gradually expanding the camp season to include weekend sessions in spring and fall. We are considering applications from other groups beyond our existing program providers in order to bring new folks, and new programming, to camp.

Next summer, the last full week of the season will be filled with campers from the Folk Music Society of New York. Many of their constituents have attended CDSS's Folk Music Week, so are very familiar with camp. We will also experiment with Labor Day weekend starting on Friday instead of Saturday. Look for a revamped program co-sponsored by RSCDS and CDS-Boston Centre. We also expect to be hosting a new weekend session after Labor Day. We have already begun discussions with other new groups about scheduling additional programs in 2016 and beyond.

Our plans to renovate Pinecones this winter have a dual purpose. The new roof and extensive electrical upgrades are necessary for safety reasons. The moisture in the walls facing the pond needs to be addressed to preserve the building. But we also decided to insulate the building and expand the wrap-around porch so that it could be used both earlier and later in the season, with the upcoming changes in mind.

I am hoping that sweet memories of your time at camp this summer will help you persevere through the winter. It is beautiful here in the fall. The Pond water sparkles under clear blue skies, paths are carpeted with multicolored leaves, and Camp still echoes with the wonderful music from the summer.

Sophie and I are settling in for the winter, but we are already dreaming about next summer and more good things to come.◆

Judy Savage, Executive Director

President's Message

This year has been another eventful one for Pinewoods' Board of Directors. Pinewoods has completed two capital improvements projects that the board and Executive Director Judy Savage have discussed for several years:

- Renovation of the "Amsterdam" shower house, built in 1910, which contains the water pump and treatment system and served as the laundry for camp until 1991. The new bathrooms and showers were much appreciated by campers staying in Pinecones and the Highlands this past summer. "Amsterdam" is the first building in camp we have insulated for use on a year-round basis, should Pinewoods choose to extend our camp calendar into the late spring and early fall.
- Construction of a pair of two-person cabins sited in the lower Highlands, "Rory O' More" and "Money Musk" ("Monymusk"), to accommodate a full camp without depending on the use of Cottey House.

The Camp Facilities Committee has planned another significant project for the off-season of 2014-15: improvements and an addition to Pinecones. We will replace the siding, trim, and roof, insulate the exterior walls and ceilings, and make improvements to the bathrooms and kitchen. The addition to the north side of the building will contain a bedroom and a screen-enclosed porch where volunteers can gather for meals during work weekends. Insulating the building will allow Pinewoods to accommodate campers in the late spring and early fall.

Since the spring Judy and the Board have been in close contact with the Country Dance and Song Society as they considered changes to their programming at Pinewoods. As many of you are probably aware, CDSS made the difficult, but well-considered, decision to consolidate its schedule of programming at Pinewoods to 6 weeks. PCI and Program Providers can thus reconsider our summer calendar, for the first time in over thirty years. Judy and I met this past September with the leaders of our four Program Providers to discuss the schedule and ideas for new programming, in particular the week made available by the change to CDSS's schedule. This planning process will continue as Judy and the Board work with our Program Providers, and possibly other traditional arts organizations, to maintain a vibrant and sustainable calendar of programming at Pinewoods that reflects evolving cultural and demographic circumstances, while staying true to our mission. ◆

Warren Anderson
President, Pinewoods Camp, Inc.

As 2014 comes to an end, the Board of Directors bids a fond farewell and expresses grateful thanks to Directors Deborah Kruskal, Sarah Pilzer, and Jackie Algon.

Sarah Pilzer has served since 2008 as a representative of CDSS and has been instrumental, along with co-chair Jan Elliott, in advancing the work of the New Generation Initiative (NGI), which provides scholarships for young musicians and dance leaders to attend Pinewoods. She also served on the Development and Nominating Committees, and supported the planning work of the Board and Executive Director with her valuable collection and analysis of session attendance data.

Jackie Algon has served since 2008 as a representative of CDSS. She chaired the Archives Committee and served on the Communications and By-Laws Committees, as well as the Pinewoods Camp Use and Pinewoods Green Ad-Hoc Committees. In addition, she has been a generous contributor of food and behind-the-scenes kitchen work at board meetings.

Deborah Kruskal, our current Vice President, has served since 1991 in many capacities on the board with quiet yet relentless energy and commitment. In her early years she served on the Management and Ecology Committees and chaired the Site Planning Committee. Following the reorganization of the Board she has served continuously on the Facilities Committee. She has also chaired the Nominating Committee and served on the Pinewoods Green and Camp Use Ad-hoc Committees. Deborah played an instrumental role in the design of our new website. She has contributed significantly to the planning of many new buildings in camp, including Ampleforth, the C# bandshell, Program Center, Camp Director's Office, Grounds Workshop & Storage Barn, and C# minor, as well as site planning for the new Dining Hall and rejuvenation of The Square. She also generously hosted many spring board meetings in her home.

Pinewoods depends on the hard work and commitment of board members such as Deborah, Sarah, Jackie, and all who came before them, to advance the work of the camp in sensitively maintaining our buildings and grounds, planning for our financial security, and working with Program Providers to keep Pinewoods thriving. ◆



We who love Pinewoods Camp were recently struck by a New York Times essay by David Brooks about friendship. (Available on the web – search for "David Brooks" friendship.)

Brooks discusses some of the many benefits of friendship: we make better decisions with a friend, we're smarter and funnier with friends, and we behave better when we want to live up to a friend's high regard. Brooks knows it's much harder to make friends these days due to work and family pressures.

His solution? A string of adult camps where "people get out of their normal hunting grounds where their guard is up ... with challenging activities to do together. Nothing inspires friendship like selflessness and cooperation in moments of difficulty.

You also want to give them moments when they can share confidences, about big ideas and small worries."

Well, Mr. Brooks, Pinewoods has been doing that for almost 100 years.

If you're one of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of campers who have made lifelong friends at Pinewoods, we ask you to help preserve that magic by giving generously to our 2014 Annual Appeal, and considering Pinewoods Camp in your legacy planning. Look for a letter and brochure in the mail, or visit our web site, <http://www.pinewoods.org/>. Thank you for caring about Pinewoods! ◆

More Labors of Love

Pinewoods Camp is indebted to the many volunteers who help us open and close camp each season. This year volunteers began implementing our Forestry Plan and removed lots of overabundant white pines and beech saplings in targeted areas of camp. They also put in and took out the docks and raft, painted furniture and signs, washed and folded massive amounts of curtains, swept roofs, cleaned windows, split logs and dug trenches. Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals who so generously donated their time and effort at our spring and autumn Work Weekends. ◆



Work Weekend volunteers help Tony Baker dig a trench for the new waterline from "Amsterdam" to Hit & Miss.

Warren Anderson
Andrea Aeschlimann
Richard Backes
Katrina Bercaw
Anna Blachman
Steve Bohrer
Jeff Buddington
Jennifer Davis
Patricia Doherty
Cathy Fahey
Rachel Fifer

Dragan Gill
Fred Gerhard
Jim Greaney
Patricia Gregory
Matthew Hemler
Noel Hess
Meghann Lee
Liz Levin
Paul Levitt
Diane Lockhart
Bruce Mabbott

Hannah McArdle
Colin McArdle
Abraham McClurg
Elizabeth McLaughlan
Lindsay and Ken Morgan
Barbara Morrison
Justin Morrison
Linda Nelson
Tom O'Connor
Katy Petersen
Emily Peterson

Cecily & Sarah Pilzer
Les Plimpton
Jenn Poole
Chris Reynolds
Jennifer Rusche
Marissa Roque
Paulina Russell
Elaine Rutman
Paul Sawyer
Emma Schneider
Anna Shipunova

Vera Shipunova
Isabel & Victoria Stearns
Phyllis Stefanov-Wagner
Gillian Stewart
Dirk Tiede
Robert Taft
Christine Warren
Paul Wilde
Seth Weidner
Thom Yarnal
Margaret Youngberg